OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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HOMES PLANS AT FORT AXED

TWO of the three proposed housing sites in the shadow of Oswestry's ancient hillfort have been scrapped – for now.

Council bosses made a last-minute alteration to their draft SAMDev strategic plan guiding future housing developments around Shropshire at a meeting at Shirehall yesterday.

by Chris Burn

It had been intended the three sites could provide the location of almost 200 new homes and employment land.

But Councillor Mal Price, portfolio holder for housing, announced the potential Jasmine Gardens and Oldport Farm developments were being dropped from the document.

But the Whittington Road site has still been included.

Councillor Price said he believed the change represented a "fair compromise" – but warned the move would open to challenge from developers.

Petition

The decision follows a major public outcry against the plans, with more than 8,000 people signing a petition against the proposals.

Councillor Price said local, national and even international objections had been submitted against the plans to build close to the 3,000 year-old Iron Age hillfort.

He said having considered the comments of objectors and officers and visited the hillfort himself, the plans were being altered.

"We will take out the farm site and the Jasmine Gardens site, we will leave in the Whittington Road site," he said.

Council leader Keith Barrow said removing all of the sites would actually be a riskier process, allowing developers to make applications under the five-year land supply rules to build in each of the three areas.

Shirehall planners are currently having to follow Government guidelines to build more homes rather than follow their own five-year development plan drawn up to meet the county's needs and wishes because the county does not yet have enough land set aside for development.

Councillor Barrow said: "If we took everything out, I can almost guarantee there would be a planning application in the post tomorrow. Because we don't have a five-year land supply that is a major danger.

"We have listened to the people of Oswestry."

Campaigners against the housing proposals today welcomed the move – but said there was more work to be done.

Maggie Rowlands, one of the objectors from the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort group, said: "It is good news but qualified good news. We also wanted to see the Whittington Road site thrown out as we understand that there is a great deal of archeological interest under that land."

"That development will also spoil one of the important gateways into Oswestry."

● U-turn – See Page 8

Royal seal of approval for classic loco

Local postie Nick Thomas with a copy of the new 88p stamp with The Earl locomotive in the background

IT'S known to the hundreds who enjoy trips on the Welshpool and Light Railway. But from today the steam locomotive, The Earl, will be known to millions across Britain as one of the new stamps launched by Royal Mail.

The latest in Royal Mail's series of Classic Locomotives stamp sets, pays tribute to the 'workhorses' of the railways across Wales.

The Earl – W & LLR No 822, which appears on the 88p stamp of a set of four, is featured waiting on Union Street in Welshpool while a car is moved from the line.

This week Welshpool postman Nick Thomas was at the launch of the stamps. The loco is currently in the workshop at Welshpool and Llanfair Railway having its axle repaired.

But volunteer and railway fireman, Andrew Charman, is confident the engine will be up and running in time for the grand opening of the tourist railway at Easter.

"We rely on The Earl and its sister engine, The Duchess, to pull the wooden carriages which run up and down the nine miles of narrow gauge railway from Welshpool to Llanfair Caereinion," Mr Charman said.

"We are delighted to be helping Royal Mail launch the stamps and highlight the work that volunteers do to ensure that their history is preserved and enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year," said Andrew.

"Many of these 'workhorses' had working lives of several decades before diesel and electric technology completely took over in the 1960s."

Another locomotive well known to Shropshire and mid Wales holidaymakers is on the 78p stamp. Blanche, a Hunslet No 589 is pictured on The Cob at the Ffestiniog Railway in Portmadog.

The first class stamp shows the LMS 7720 leaving the Britannia Bridge with a Bangor-to-Holyhead local train in about 1930.

Fears as budget cut looms for CAB

A MOVE to cut Powys County Council funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau will be a "death sentence" to the service in the county, bosses have claimed.

The warning comes as members of the Welsh Conservative group on Powys County Council announced they would put forward amendments to the council's budget which they claim will allow the Citizens Advice Bureau to continue.

Millions of pounds of budget cuts are a step closer after the council's cabinet voted through £20 million of savings on Tuesday to balance its books.

If the 2014/15 budget is voted through by the full council next week it will see effects on schools, public transport, sport and adult social care as well as grants to organisations.

Councillors did however vote to retain half its £93,000 grant to the Citizen's Advice Bureau having originally planned to wipe out the grant.

Without the core funding the CAB says that offices in Newtown, Brecon and Ystradgynlais will close along with all the additional outreach services, including those that run from doctors' surgeries in Welshpool and Llanfyllin, depriving thousands of vulnerable clients of access to help and advice on debt and benefits.

Crash near roundabout

FIREFIGHTERS and police officers were called out to attend a road crash near a roundabout at Oswestry.

The crash involved one car which collided with a crash barrier near the A5 Gledrid roundabout between Chirk and Oswestry.

One crew from Oswestry attended to stem the flow of leaking fuel from the vehicle and make the car electrically safe.The crew was called out at 9.35am yesterday and spent half an hour dealing with the fuel spillage. Officers were alerted to the collision at about 8.30am.

Clubs face closure in moves to save cash

OSWESTRY Youth Club is one of 24 facing closure as part of cuts proposed by Shropshire Council, it was revealed this week.

Hundreds of children and young adults will be affected by the proposals, which will come into effect in April.

Dozens of council-run youth sessions will be axed as Shropshire Council looks to save almost £150,000 from its budget and it has already warned there will be more cuts next year.

Shropshire Council is planning to cut between 18 and 24 youth club sessions from the 47 it currently runs.

Selected sessions at venues in Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Whitchurch and Market Drayton are among those under threat.

Services in "the areas of highest need" will be saved, while it is hoped volunteers may come forward to help run under-threat sessions.

The authority is making the cuts with about one-third of the county's youth workers taking redundancy.

About 20 staff are leaving the authority with about 16 being front-line staff.

Most are part-time workers.The staff reductions are expected to save the cash-strapped authority £140,000, equivalent to a 15 per cent budget cut.

Tax cheats are named

A COMPANY from near Oswestry has been named by HM Revenue and Customs as a tax cheat owing more than £27,000 in penalties.

Churchfield Services Ltd, in Llansilin, which has now ceased trading, is among the deliberate tax defaulters named on the HMRC website. Between October 1, 2011, and September 30, 2012, the firm defaulted on seven tax payments, incurring penalties of £27,235.14. The penalties related to tax bills of more than £47,500.

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NEWS

PICTURE PREVIEW

Julian Bowers looks to the skies to make farming life easier. Turn to page 6.

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New 999 fears despite return for ambulances

By Sue Austin

AMBULANCE chiefs have insisted they were doing all they could to ensure towns and villages in Shropshire were being adequately covered – despite fresh fears being raised about patients receiving speedy treatment.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said the decision to reintroduce ambulances in Oswestry, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth and Craven Arms had been taken with the aim of getting ambulances to patients more quickly.

It comes after Councillor Paul Milner of Oswestry Town Council said he believed lives could be at risk under the plans, which will see ambulances replace paramedic rapid response cars in the four towns.

He said there had been a promise from WMAS that the rapid response vehicle and its paramedic would be ring fenced – and that it would not leave the Oswestry area and always be available to respond to incidents.

Better

Councillor Milner said: "We were told that that was better than an ambulance that would take patients out of the area to hospital and be no longer able to respond to any second incident.

"Now we are told the rapid response vehicle is being taken from us to be replaced with an ambulance. I am very worried now that Oswestry will be back were it started, without any cover if the ambulance is transporting a patient."

Claire Brown, spokeswoman for WMAS, said: "Following concerns about delays in waiting for ambulances to convey patients to hospital, a review of emergency vehicles showed a high ratio of paramedic cars to ambulances."

Last-ditch bid to stop closure at sport centre

A last-ditch bid has been launched to save a leisure centre popular with Shropshire families despite a council recommending its closure.

A group has been formed to work on an urgent Plan B to save the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre, near Chirk. It was brought together after a meeting of campaigners, councillors, voluntary organisations, Wrexham Council officers and experts in energy conservation and social enterprises. It followed the decision to close the centre, which includes a popular swimming pool with a wave machine.

Clwyd South Welsh Assembly Member, Ken Skates and Cefn Mawr councillor Derek Wright called a meeting at the weekend. Mr Skates said: "People are extremely anxious about the possible loss of Plas Madoc Leisure Centre because of the UK Government's austerity programme, but Sunday's meeting has provided us with Plan B and an alternative to closure which I hope Wrexham Council will help us deliver."

Skater boy turns hobby into business

Ryan Swain, from Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, has turned his skateboarding passion into a business.

HE'S been skateboarding since he was a young boy – and now young entrepreneur Ryan Swain has turned his passion into a business by opening his own sports shop.

Mr Swain runs the Transition Board Sports unit within Powis Hall indoor market in Oswestry and is about to offer mountain bikes and other cycles from the shop.

The 21-year-old, from Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, is now encouraging other young people to have the confidence to go out and turn their ideas into reality.

Mr Swain left school at the age of 16 after completing his GCSEs at Llanfyllin High School.

"I started working for a plasterer and still do that work three days a week," he said.

"My hobbies have always involved skateboarding and mountain biking, I think I was on a skateboard as soon as I could walk.

"Now I like any kind of outdoor, extreme sport and I compete in off-road motorbikes."

Mr Swain added: "I decided to use my knowledge to start a business and the indoor market seemed a good base." Mr Swain sells skateboards of all kinds, helmets and clothing and also deals in mountain bikes.

Mr Swain is also involved in Maxim, a business based in Llanrhaeadr in which he and a business partner design high-end mountain bikes.

And he also runs the monthly Workhouse Project Dance event at the Workhouse in Llanfyllin.

"There are not a lot of jobs out their at the moment so it is important for people to have the confidence to start up their own business," Mr Swain said.

Talks going ahead over town 20mph speed limit

By Iain St John

A public meeting will be held next month which could lead to a blanket 20mph speed limit being introduced in Oswestry.

More than 1,000 people have already backed the 20s Plenty campaign by signing a petition calling for the speed cut.

Campaigners hope to make Oswestry the first town in Shropshire to have a 20mph speed limit introduced.

The campaign is being spearheaded by Oswestry woman Sarah-Charlotte Peace who was badly injured in a road traffic collision while cycling in the town.

She said: "The event focuses on raising awareness of the many benefits that 20mph brings, hopes to show community support to Shropshire Council and ultimately lead to implementation.

"Oswestry could become the pilot town for Shropshire.

"Twenty miles per hour for Oswestry has won local business and resident support in petitions with 1,000 plus signatures.

"Oswestry Town Council has voted for 20mph limits. It awaits updates and funding from Shropshire Council.

"Who knows, Oswestry could become the beacon 20mph town for Shropshire."

The public meeting will take place at The Dining Rooms on Welsh Walls in Oswestry on March 31.

The speaker will be Rod King, the founder of the 20s Plenty For Us campaign.

The campaign wants default residential 20mph limits, without humps, to be introduced in Oswestry as soon as possible.

Campaigners say the move is about "social engineering rather than highway engineering" and relies on community engagement on, and agreement to, signed 20mph limits backed up by "light touch" police enforcement.

Among the benefits the scheme will bring, campaigner say,

are reduced danger and fear, less congestion, better air quality, increased active travel and quieter neighbourhoods.

The meeting runs from 7pm to 9pm and will include a question and answer session.

Town councillors in Oswestry supported a motion in April last year, tabled by then town councillor Saffron Rainey, for the 20mph speed restriction to be introduced.

The council was then asked in September to formally submit the motion through the Shropshire Council road safety policy/speed policy system to progress the move.

Councillors instead voted to pass the matter on for further discussion by a new group to be set up by Shropshire Council Leader Keith Barrow which will look at the wider issues of transport.

Section of bypass to close for roadwork

PART of the Chirk bypass is closed to traffic for resurfacing works.

The busy A5 Llangollen Road will be shut from the Halton Roundabout to Whitehurst Roundabout for six consecutive nights from last night (Wednesday), between 7pm and 6am.

Roadworkers are upgrading the high friction surfacing on part of the carriageway and replacing the road markings.

A spokesman for contractor Lafarge, of Ruthin, said: "The works will be undertaken using a full road closure with a signed diversion route each night and is required for safety reasons.

"The diversion for northbound traffic heading for Llangollen is to leave the A5 at Gledrid Roundabout and travel along the B5070 through Chirk and rejoin the A5 at Whitehurst Roundabout.

"The diversion for southbound traffic, heading for Chirk, is to exit the A483 at Ruabon and take the A539 and B5606 to the A5.

"We recognise that these resurfacing works will be disruptive to local residents, businesses and traffic.

"However, additional measures have been implemented to reduce disruption and maintain traffic flow."

Further Information is available at www.traffic-wales.com or by contacting the Traffic Wales Information 0300 123 1213.

Warning as cars targeted

CARS were broken into overnight in Welshpool, with valuables taken, police have reported.

The vehicles were broken into in the Erw Wen and Bronwylfa Road area last weekend, prompting officers to issue a warning for car owners to be vigilant.

Persistent thief given 22-month prison sentence for offence trail

A HEROIN addict who repeatedly shoplifted from Shropshire supermarkets to fund his drug habit has been given his longest prison sentence so far.

Anthony Hughes, 30, of Trefonen Road, Morda, was sentenced to 22 months in prison after stealing alcohol, meat and toiletries totalling £1,200 from shops in Oswestry.

He targeted Sainsbury's, Co-Operative, B&M Bargains and Marks and Spencer between September and December last year and even stole his girlfriend's tablet computer, Shrewsbury Crown Court heard on Monday.

Most of the thefts were committed while he was on bail for other thefts, Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said. Hughes has a criminal record of 28 convictions for 59 offences.

Judge Robin Onions said: "The courts have tried everything. Every conditional discharge you've breached, every suspended sentence has been activated," he told Hughes.

Judge Onions said he wanted an explanation from West Mercia Police as to why Hughes had been bailed and re-bailed despite his persistent offending.

Mr Michael Sherwood-Smith, defending, said Hughes was on a methadone prescription and asked for a custodial sentence to be deferred to allow him to turn his life around.

But Judge Onions said: "He's had so many chances and every chance he's had he's thrown back in the face of the court."

Lab Bill set for Crufts date

Leon Davies, 14, meets dog Bill and his owner Val Howell at Hope House Children's Hospice

A big-hearted black labrador who has been bringing comfort and joy to people throughout Shropshire and Mid Wales has been shortlisted for a national award.

Ten-year-old Bill has been a Pets as Therapy dog for four years, becoming a popular visitor to schools, hospices and care homes. He has been named one of six finalists in a national competition to find the HiLife PAT Dog of the Year 2013/14.

The winner will be announced during a presentation ceremony at Crufts on March 8 and Bill is going all out to win the prestigious title. However, he's not letting his ambitions get in the way of his work – he's been busy visiting Hope House Children's Hospice, Llanfyllin Primary School, Oswestry's Marches School and Llysfield Nursing Home, bringing joy and companionship to everyone he meets.

Owner Val Howell, of Weston Lane in Oswestry, said Bill was looking forward to his big day at Crufts. Mrs Howell, 70, who has had Bill for four years, said: "He was nominated for the prize by Hope House and he is always busy with his visits."

Bill and the other five finalists will parade around the show arena at Crufts as details of their achievements are announced to the audience.

NEWS in brief

Post bosses to restore service

A rural area of Mid Wales will regain a post office service – for just two hours a week.

The Post Office has announced that that an outreach service will be provided at Mill Cafe at Llangedwyn Mill, just 50 metres from the previous location.

The branch in Llangedwyn closed last May because of the ill-health of the subpostmaster.

Now the subpostmaster from Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant has agreed to provide a service at the cafe every Tuesday between 9am and 11am.

Sarah Sampson, area manager for the Post Office, said the same range of services as before would continue to be available."I am delighted to announce the return of Post Office services," she said.

St David's dragon hunt due to start

VISITORS to Welshpool town centre are being warned to be on the lookout for a horde of dragons which will be invading shops and businesses to mark St David's Day.

The dragons will come out of hibernation to take up posts. From St David's Day – March 1 – they will be on show in various shop and business windows displaying their names.

The dragon hunt is organised by Welshpool Town Council, clue cards will be available from the Tourist Information Centre, library and town clerk's office.

Attacker waiting to be sentenced

A 20-year-old Oswestry woman has admitted actual bodily harm after she pushed her victim to the floor and pulled her hair.

Hollie Roberts has no recollection of punching or banging Josie Evans' head on the pavement, Shrewsbury Crown Court heard on Monday. Roberts will be sentenced on March 24.

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Pixel Hotpots

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YOUR ITINERARY

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2: Full day to Amsterdam Hollands most vibrant city boasts 165 canals, 1281 bridges, 42 museums and many great sights. Admire the 17th century merchant houses or the floating flower market ablaze with colour in every season.

3: After breakfast we travel North to De Simonehoeve a local cheese farm and wooden shoe factory, for demonstrations of how these traditional Dutch products are made. We will then continue on to the nearby old fishing village of Volendam, well-known for its old fishing boats and the traditional clothing still worn by some residents. The women's costume of Volendam, with its high, pointed bonnet, is one of the most recognizable of the Dutch traditional costumes, and is often featured on tourist postcards and posters. In the afternoon we'll return to the port of Rotterdam to embark for your overnight voyage to Hull.

YOUR HOTEL

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NEWS

Power line fears on the agenda in Parliament

By Iain St John

CONCERNS **over the impact of planned windfarms and a 33-mile power line on Shropshire and Mid Wales have been spelt out in Parliament.**

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies secured a 30-minute debate over increasing concerns about plans for five large scale windfarms in Powys and associated proposals by National Grid to build a power line from Mid Wales to Shropshire to serve the new turbines.

The windfarms are currently the subject of a lengthy public inquiry, while National Grid is pressing ahead with its plans for the power line, which would link a substation near the village of Cefn Coch to Lower Frankton near Oswestry.

Campaigners fear the windfarms and the power line will damage the countryside and devastate tourism.

Mr Davies said today (FRI) he was pleased with how Wednesday's debate in Parliament went.

He said: "I am satisfied because I wanted the debate so we could look at two main issues.

"First of all I wanted to try to explain the scale of the proposed windfarms, because I think there are still so many people who don't understand the potential impacts of these schemes. "And secondly I wanted to press the Government to consider a moratorium on on-shore windfarms because I firmly believe enough is enough."

During the debate Mr Davies pointed out the strength of feeling locally against the windfarms and power lines.

He said: ""They do not want the pylons, but they believe that they can do nothing about it. They feel helpless."

Shrewsbury and Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski said: "We had to fight tooth and nail to prevent the power lines coming through my constituency – for a long time, there was tremendous anger."

Benefits fraudster pays back £4,000

COUNCIL officials have issued a new warning to benefits cheats after clawing back nearly £4,000 from a woman falsely claiming money for housing and council tax relief.

Melanie Morgan-Worley, 40, from Albert Road, Oswestry, appeared before magistrates last week and admitted claiming more than £3,950 to which she was not entitled between April 2012 and April 2013.

She was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £200 costs to Shropshire Council and a £15 victim surcharge as well as having to pay back the money she claimed.

Public protection investigation officers said the prosecution acted as a reminder that benefit claimants must declare the correct information at the time of their application, and notify officials of any changes in circumstances. The council's Steve Charmley said: "I hope this sends a clear message to others that fraudsters will be caught and punished."

Builders give out free sand

Branch manager, Jon Griffiths (right) and assistant manager,John Wickwar, from TG Builders

WITH the threat of more severe flooding in the Welshpool and Oswestry areas, the Tudor Griffiths Group is offering 40 tonnes of free sand to local householders in order that they may try to protect their properties with sand bags.

Management and staff at the group have been moved by the plight of local people and are inviting people to visit its builders merchants branches in Oswestry and Welshpool to fill their sand bags for free, with 20 tonnes of sand at each branch.

Managing Director Tudor Griffiths said: "Who could not be touched by the dreadful flooding that threatens our local people? We are in a position to help and we feel duty bound to do everything in our powers to support people.

"I do hope people will come and help themselves to this resource which could allow them to preserve their properties or at the very least hold back the deluge of flood water that threatens them."

Full details on www.tggroup.co.uk

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NEWS

Investing in skills wins firm an award

A STAIR parts manufacturer in Oswestry has won a major award for its investment in future skills.

Richard Burbidge Ltd, which also makes moulding and decking and has a factory in Chirk, won the EEF/JAM Recruitment Investing In Skills Award at the EEF Future Manufacturing Awards 2013.

The company won the award, sponsored by JAM Recruitment, for its rapid and wide-reaching training programme that achieved key business targets and laid down the foundation for future growth.

The judges were very impressed with the enthusiasm and energy for ongoing training through a change in culture reaching all within the business.

JAM chief executive John Morris, said: "As specialist recruiters in the manufacturing industry, JAM is no stranger to the apparent skills gap.

"We applaud all of the companies within this category who have demonstrated their commitment to the cause and are playing a vital role in the growth of the industry."

Darrell Matthews, region director for the North West at EEF, added: "The EEF Future Manufacturing Awards showcase the best of British innovation and excellence.

Village groups to get £14k funding boost

GROUPS based in villages in the Oswestry area are set for a funding boost amounting to more than £14,000.

The funding is set to come from Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee at a meeting next week.

Among the organisations to benefit will be St Martins School, which is set to receive £4,203 for education equipment, and Gobowen Scouts, who will get a grant of £2,400 for improvements to their hall.

by Iain StJohn

In total £14,231 will be given out by councillors on the local joint committee at a meeting on February 25 in the All Saints Church Hall, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen, at 7pm – as long as the budget decisions are formally approved.

A report to the local joint committee said the funding to St Martins School would provide 25 E readers that would encourage reluctant readers and be promoted through book clubs.

It added: "The school also plan to further develop their communication with pupils and the community. These devices will be an alternative way of communication.

"In addition the school would like to purchase sports related science equipment to support pupils and year 6 feeder junior schools preparing for transition.

"The equipment is beyond the normal expenditure for the school."

The report said the Scout funding application would help improve their meeting hall and was for the purchase of 100 stacking chairs and 10 lightweight tables.

"The hall entrance is in need of replacement due to recent water damage," the report said. "The hall is used by the Scouts and they hold fundraising events In addition some community meetings take place.

Further grants set to be agreed at the meeting include cash to parish councils in Gobowen and St Martins for a joint venture for floral displays in both villages.

"The flowers will be themed to commemorate World War One," the report said. "Local volunteers have come forward to support the project and businesses will be approached to maintain the planted areas."

Love's all around in town

Tracey Roberts pins up some hearts in the shop window

LOVE was in the air last week – and on the window of a charity shop in Oswestry.

The British Heart Foundation chose hearts and Valentine's Day as an apt way of raising money for the charity.

Romantic souls could buy different size paper hearts to write a message and stick it to the inside of the window of the store in Cross Street.

Manager Gemma Singleton said the campaign had been running for some years and was always popular.

"Sometimes we have couples whose messages are side by side in the window. We often have ladies buy a heart and write a message to their partner on it. A few days later the man comes in and asks to do the same."

The shop is currently appealing for more bric-a-brac to be donated as well as handbags, shoes and other accessories. It is also on the lookout for more volunteers.Anyone interested can pop into the shop or call

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FEATURE & COMMENT

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Is it just me or am I right to say that driving standards are deteriorating in this country?

Every day I witness drivers risking their lives by making dangerous manoeuvres and breaking the law in a bid to reach their destination a few seconds earlier.

What's infuriating is that these idiots are risking the lives of a lot of other people too as they openly flout the rules of the highway.

And it's no good pointing the finger at the young drivers, because often the crazy person behind the wheel is of an age when they should know a lot better.

Overtaking on double white lines seems to be fair game these days, as does passing on blind bends and hills and the Welshpool to Shrewsbury road seems to attract more reckless motorists than most stretches. Little wonder that accidents are commonplace on this road.

And how annoying is it to when you're held up in a tail of slow moving traffic to have the giant truck behind you travelling just a few inches off your rear bumper? You feel like getting out and throttling someone.

Changes giving the police powers to issue fixed penalty notices for careless or inconsiderate driving came into effect last August to include tailgating.

The changes give the police greater flexibility in dealing with less serious careless driving offences, freeing them from resource-intensive court processes.

I'll be looking with great interest when figures are released telling us how many fixed penalty points were issued to motorists in the period since the new rules came in.

Police still seem to be hitting speeders as simple targets. Doing 32 in a 30mph restricted area is far less serious than some of the driving I have witnessed recently.

Driving used to be a pleasure. Remember the days when we would just go for a family drive on a Sunday afternoon – just because we could.

Now I for one find little enjoyment behind the wheel, which is a problem when one of my roles in journalism is as a motoring correspondent. This role has given me the opportunity to drive all over Europe and while each country has its different issues, with Paris being the outstanding challenge, I have not witnessed such reckless driving on the open road anywhere other than here in the UK.

Careless driving puts innocent people's lives at risk and the penalty should be reflective of the seriousness of the incident.

Let's send persistent offenders on courses and make them re-take driving tests, that might make them think and drive more carefully.

The type of turbines on the way to the Shropshire and Powys borders

Julian Bowers looks to the skies to make farming life easier

The National Farmers' Union believes turbine power is the way forward for the countryside

Wind energy provides a lifeline, says farmer

WIND and solar farms must become a way of life if rural communities are to continue to thrive, a farmer planning to erect a £600,000 turbine insisted today.

Julian Bowers says he believes that renewable energy is an ideal way of helping farmers to bring in extra income.

Plans for building wind turbines have created huge amounts of controversy throughout Shropshire and Mid Wales, with whole communities fighting several proposals across the region.

There are also two plans in the pipeline for solar farms both in Telford and Shropshire, which are planned by councils in order to bring in extra cash into their increasingly stretched budgets.

Mr Bowers, from Cockshutt near Ellesmere, recently won permission to build a new 161ft wind turbine on his 220-acre property.

Investment

Generating 60 kilowatts of energy, it passed through the planning process with a minimum of fuss, he said, because it did not directly overlook any nearby houses.

He said: "We are looking at it as an investment.

"Any farm that has dairy or poultry sees very high energy bills.

"Everyone knows that energy is getting more expensive all the time, so big users feel the effect of that.

"If you can limit one of your biggest costs, that's always going to be an attractive option."

Mr Bowers added: "Wind power is perfectly clean, and it doesn't take up any amount of land so you can still farm the area. I think a lot of people are looking to do something with it.

"Everybody thinks they are a good idea – just not in their back garden. But to be fair, at the local parish meeting, everybody was pretty well in favour.

Julian Bowers believes that renewable energy will help farmers

"When you compare them to pylons, which have to be there, they actually look pretty nice."

Since the beginning of 2013, planning applications have been submitted to Shropshire Council for the installation of 27 turbines on 25 micro-sites across the county, two of which were withdrawn and 12 of which have been given the thumbs-up.

They vary widely in scale, from 39ft in height up to 337ft.

The technology has received the support of the National Farmers' Union, whose environment adviser Sarah Faulkner said: "Agriculture has a great role to play in keeping the nation's lights on.

"Energy security is up there with food security in its importance and farmland has a central role to play in providing that security through turbines, solar power and other green energy technology.

"Shropshire farmers can make a major contribution to meet the demand for clean energy, without prejudicing supplies of crops for food or animal feed."

Money paid back to farmers through the energy feed-in tariff also serves to justify the large initial outlay for construction.

Mr Bowers, who has recently ceased dairy farming in preparation for developing a beef herd, said the self-funded turbine will justify its expenditure in seven years.

With permission in place for the next 20 years, that means that from 2022 it will bring in 13 years of additional profit for the farm.

He added: "You probably wouldn't invest in agriculture at the moment, you would look at diversification and different income streams that aren't reliant on what you are already doing.

"If you bought land, then you had bad weather like we seem to be having, you wouldn't make any more money out of it.

"It would be a long-term investment based on hoping the value of land keeps increasing.

"It's quite a big investment in the first place, that many people might shy away from. There's a lot of costs up front. But once your permission is in, your feed-in tariff is set."

Mr Bowers added: "The beef job will never be particularly profitable. We can keep the business healthy and going forward once we see what the turbines can return."

NFU chief renewables and climate change adviser Dr Jonathan Scurlock said: "The NFU notes that the government has moderated the reduction in financial support originally proposed over the period 2015-2019 for offshore wind farms, and has actually increased support for some other technologies, in a move that should bolster confidence in Britain's fast-growing renewable energy sector.

"It is also proposing to reduce the support for solar and onshore wind farms more quickly, to reflect the falling costs of these technologies."

Dr Scurlock added: "We strongly endorse land-based renewable energy which supports profitable agriculture.

"The National Farmers' Union would be concerned if there was a political shift in government support from land-based renewables towards offshore technologies.

"At a time when there is continued public confusion about the impact of low-carbon policies on energy bills, it is important that the government offers consistent, long-term energy policy messages.

"With solar power and onshore wind delivering better value year by year, it makes sense to decrease government support as a measure of their success. "

WORKING FOR YOU

Glyn Davies, MP

Last week I led a debate in the House of Commons about the Mid Wales Connection Project, which involves the mass construction of wind turbines and pylons across Mid Wales and north Shropshire.

I had two objectives. Firstly, it's important that everyone realises what it all means and the massive scale of what is being proposed. Very few people realise what's involved.

And secondly, I wanted to ask the Government to call a halt to this madness, accept that "enough is enough" and stop the massive subsidies which are the real and only reason energy companies are determined to industrialise the uplands of central Wales. Subsidies, which are paid by customers, are the biggest example in history of Government demanding that the poor be robbed to pay the rich.

At the heart of the Mid Wales Connection Project is a 400kv cable, carried on 150ft high steel towers from West Felton in Shropshire along the beautiful Vyrnwy Valley to a 20-acre substation at Cefn Coch in the middle of Montgomeryshire. This line is 33 miles long. National Grid is proposing to run about a quarter of it underground.

It's a line dedicated to windfarms, so it can be assumed it will mean about 500 new wind turbines. The capacity of this line will inevitably be used. There will be about 100 miles of 132kv lines criss-crossing Mid Wales, a prospect too horrible to contemplate.

Underpinning the Government's policy is a commitment to an EU target that 15 per cent of the UK's energy needs will come from renewable sources by 2020. Government expectation is that 10-13 gigawatts of power will come from onshore wind.

Already, more than 13 gigawatts are operating or through the planning system writing to be built. Another 6 gigawatts are in the planning system. Enough is enough.

The people of Mid Wales and north Shropshire are doing all they can to protect our landscapes and countryside from desecration by politicians, mostly foreign energy companies and National Grid. We owe it to future generations to stop this ravaging of our fair country.

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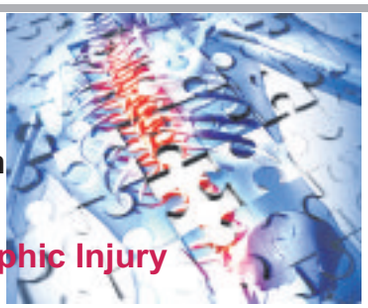

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SURELY MY EMPLOYER CANNOT SACK ME BECAUSE I HAVE TATTOOS?

Q: I started a new job as a receptionist at a beauty salon last November and was given a long-sleeved winter and short-sleeved summer uniform to wear. The job was going well until the Christmas 'do' when I wore a strappy dress and the boss saw the tattoos I have on my arms.

After the 'do' she called me into her office and said she was giving me a month's notice to leave as she hadn't realised I had tattoos when she hired me. She said she could not have me sitting on the reception desk in the summer wearing a short-sleeved uniform as her clients might be offended by my tattoos. I said 'my tattoos are part of my personality'. She said 'my clients are part of my future'. Surely sacking me for having tattoos is discrimination?

A: Firstly, discrimination law applies only to matters concerning sex, race, nationality, religion or belief and sexual orientation. It does not apply to fashion, which is what a tattoo would be classed as. But that aside, if you have only been in the job a few months you would not be entitled to claim against your employer.

From the employer's perspective, provided they are not contravening discrimination legislation by, for example, refusing to allow a dress code required by an employee's religion, they have the right to expect a level of appearance in the best interests of the business.

When you work behind her reception desk you are representing your employer and she would argue that you are being paid to reflect her values to existing and potential customers looking to engage her services. If you really want to keep your job you might try negotiating with the salon owner to see if she will let you wear long sleeves in the summer.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal.
For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk. For Personal Injury and Family matters we offer a FREE legal diagnostic clinic every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation

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LETTERS

The same letter it's simply 12 years on

THIS is a letter which I had published 12 years ago.

Once again I would like to suggest that the water authorities are responsible for the devastation throughout the country due in the main to them not dredging the rivers.

This is what I said: Flood damage – who is responsible? Surely the water authorities are the main culprits and should therefore pay the cost?

They charge us for supplying water to our properties and also for the disposal of our sewage and drainage. Should any property owner or business cause pollution of the waterways they can be fined and asked to pay compensation.

When properties are damaged by floods which arise from the inadequate drainage by the waterways then compensation and repair costs should equally be claimed from the water authorities.

It must be unfair that property owners have to pay high insurance premiums due to the water authorities lack of maintenance and control the flow.

I was astounded to read a recent letter indicating that the dams at Clywedog and Vyrnwy are not being used to control flows.

Can the water authorities afford to accept their responsibilities? A glance at the charts covering shares indicates that Severn Trent are both popular and performing well.

Money for jam or have I got it wrong?

Barry Jones
Oswestry

Who should we blame

WHAT'S to blame for the massive rainfall which shows no sign of stopping?

I feel so sorry for the poor folks who have been flooded out.

David Cameron visited the worst flooded areas and called it Biblical, perhaps he was referring to stories in the Old Testament where God allowed drought or floods to occur hoping to bring the nation of Israel, to its senses.

We are a Godless nation, but he is still a God of love and mercy .

Ron Jones
Oswestry

Polio outbreak is warning to us all

Reports that a young girl called Sakina in Kabul has become the first case of Polio confirmed in Afghanistan since 2001 is a tragic reminder that none of us can afford to be complacent when it comes to Polio, whether it be here in the UK or overseas.

Members of The British Polio Fellowship living with the effects of Polio and Post Polio Syndrome (PPS) know what this terrible disease can do and the plight of Sakina brings back painful memories for thousands of members in the UK.

PPS is a neurological condition that can occur in people who have had Polio, characterised by symptoms of increasing weakness, fatigue and pain. It can occur at any age and can be difficult to diagnose, as there is no single test for it.

In Afghanistan, problems have been caused by Islamic extremists obstructing vaccination and while we may rightly condemn such ignorance, it is surely matched by ignorance here in the west that Polio and PPS are not our problem anymore. We couldn't be any more wrong.

Despite the world teetering on the brink of eradication, this disease is showing much greater resilience than any of us gave it credit for. If cases grow worldwide, so does the risk of the virus spreading into Europe again via refuges from Syria or Afghanistan.

The need to be vigilant when it comes to a killer still very much in our midst, is essential. we are hardly 'Polio free'. The British Polio Fellowship can be contacted on 0800 018 0586.

Ted Hill, MBE
British Polio Fellowship

Rail junction controlled by huge signal box

Apart from the sign on the front of this building, due to its size there's little to indicate this is a picture of the Oswestry north signal box at the former Oswestry railway station. It was loaned to us by Tony Rowe, from Oswestry. However, the date the photograph was taken is not known.

Cancel debt and let's all start again

AT the end of 2013, UK Government debt amounted to £1.377 billion of total GDP and is growing at the rate of around £2.3 billion a week.

David Cameron has stated that the Conservatives have reduced the deficit. That is only the rate the Government borrows the money at and not the overall debt.

Regarding the world's largest debtor governments, the UK does not make it in to the top 10. Number one is Greece, four Portugal, six Italy, seven Ireland - all in the Euro - and the USA is at number 10.

The only answer is to cancel world debt and start again with a fresh balance sheet or the world will descend in to anarchy.

Mark Norwood
Whittington

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford, TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Students benefit from Euro travel

EVERY year hundreds of students from Wales benefit from going to other European countries to work or study as part of the EU Erasmus programme.

Its aim is to help young people improve their skills and gain new experiences to help them with their future careers. I know from the many young people who have come on work experience in my office that they are fantastic ambassadors for Wales.

In January the Erasmus scheme was widened to allow a lot more youth groups to take part. It also includes sports groups for the first time. I supported these changes because I believe it will help make Wales a modern European nation. We really need to make Europe work for Wales.

Jill Evans
MEP

Is chairman right man for the job?

LORD Smith the chairman of the Environment Agency, now in the limelight because of the floods, is according to his CV a very intelligent man, but his qualifications to be chairman of the EA, having no business or practical experience, is quite wrong.

The EA is a very difficult agency to work with. Appointments to important organisations should be made based on past experience, and not as a reward for some past political service.

And how is it that so many people in the higher echelons of political and public service have several public jobs.

John Gittins
Ruyton-XI-Towns

Now help improve the lives of carers

THE very nature of caring – of being there for a loved one facing ill health or disability – means so often people don't at first, or sometimes ever, identify themselves as carers. Rather, they think of themselves as wife, husband, son, daughter, mum, dad or perhaps grandparent, niece or nephew helping a loved one.

But without the right help and support, caring can have a devastating impact – carers can quickly become cut off, with their physical and emotional health, work and finances all hit hard.

Caring for those who are older, disabled or seriously ill is a huge and growing social issue – every day 6,000 people take on a caring responsibility for a loved one.

I believe we can all play a part in helping improve the lives of those who take on a caring role. That is why I am supporting the Carers Week Quest in 2014 which aims to reach out to the thousands of carers in the UK missing out on support and services.

Individuals and organisations, community groups, GPs, health and social care professionals, employers, can all make a difference and I urge your readers to sign up today and start thinking how they can make a difference and connect with those in their communities who are caring.

Find out how you can help carers, visit www.carersweek.org

Lynda Bellingham
for Carers UK

High life in the Lords

I read of another example of how "we are all in this together", members of the House of Lords are complaining about the food in their restaurant.

Do these people not have breakfast before they go to work?

Their restaurant is subsidised by the taxpayer to a tune of £1.3 million a year.

They can sign in have a subsidised meal collect their £300 expenses and then go home.

Who are the bigger scroungers? All in it together? Don't make me laugh!!

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NEWS

Workers helped to stay healthy

WORKERS who spend their time helping the ill and injured are themselves getting help to keep healthy and cut down on sickness days off.

Doctors, nurses and other staff at the Orthopaedic Hospital are being given the chance to get involved in the Healthy Horizons initiative.

This year the hospital is focussing on screening staff aged 45 and over to identify future health issues.

Sue Pryce, deputy director of human resources, said it was important to help staff cope with the often less obvious problems of stress, anxiety and depression.

"The trust has a 24/7 confidential staff support service which provides support to help staff to address difficulties as soon as possible.

"Last autumn we also organised a health and wellbeing Healthy Horizons Day for staff which attracted record numbers of 433 attendees. We are also working with our catering teams to provide a greater range of healthy eating choices and with slimming clubs to advise on weight loss."

Another project is the work by the physiotheraphy department to reducing muscular and joint disorders among staff. Award-winning physiotherapist Mike Delahay said the team had implemented a staff self-referral scheme to physiotherapy

Heritage group is under fire over its fort U-turn

ENGLISH Heritage has come under fire after being accused of performing a U-turn over controversial plans to build 200 homes in the shadow of an ancient hillfort.

Councillor Chris Schofield, mayor of Oswestry, said the national body had raised no objection to building the homes at Oldport Farm near the town's Iron Age hillfort – only to then change its mind.

He said town councillors had looked to English Heritage for advice during the early stages of consultation on the scheme, and said the change of view was "not good enough".

Officials at English Heritage had originally told Oswestry Town Council it would be happy with a scheme to build homes at the site off Gobowen Road.

But now Bill Klemperer, English Heritage principal inspector of ancient monuments, has written to Shropshire Council saying the body has come out against the plans. He has claimed the new design based on the farm buildings was far too intensive.

Shropshire Council wants to include three sites close to the hillfort in its Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) document, a blueprint for future development which will see more than 20,000 home built across the county by 2026.

by Iain St John

Councillor Schofield said the town council had based its views on the proposed SAMDev plans for the sites on advice from English Heritage.

He said: "Now it seems English Heritage has done a U-turn on Oldport Farm. It is simply not good enough that such a national body can advise a council and then change its advice."

In his letter to Shropshire Council, Mr Klemperer said English Heritage had said that should Oldport Farm cease to be a farm, it could be redeveloped on its historic courtyard form.

"The scheme promoters have produced further information and reduced the number of units to 23. This is very similar to the number we opposed for the site in 2012 and would, in our view be an over intensitve use of the site that would be to the detriment of the hillfort's significance."

John becomes the singing cowboy

Cattle farmer John Hughes has cut down his workload on the farm and become the singing cowboy

WHEN farmer John Hughes gave up milking on his farm he found he had more time to play his guitar.

Now five years on, Mr Hughes is gaining a reputation as the singing farmer, often combining his large repertoire of songs with tales of life down on the farm.

The 55-year-old, who still farms cattle and sheep at Trefnanney near Welshpool, said fiver years ao he gave up the milking herd to concentrate on sheep and cattle.After talking to his brother Ian, who also plays guitar, the pair decided to reform their old school band from the 80s.

Storm was made up of the two teenage brothers, twins who now live in Telford, and a drummer now living in Mold. All had been friends at Llanfyllin High School. "We played a few gigs but it was very hard trying to find times when we could get together, but I carried on getting gigs."

He said he particularly likes going to homes for the elderly. "It is wonderful to hear the residents reminiscing and I talk to them as well about life on the farm. There is one lady that has quite severe dementia. But I did a set list one week and when I returned another week and missed a song out, she pointed it out straight away."

NEWS in brief

Exotic animals saved at college

"AMAZING support" from the public saved all the exotic animals at Walford and North Shropshire College, delighted staff said.

Strong gales last week knocked out the power at the college's Walford campus where it keeps 99 species of animals for students' studies. An urgent appeal was made by the Shropshire college over fears the animals would not be able to survive without heat and light.

Lucy Evans, college spokeswoman, said: "The response has been fantastic. "We have been offered generators by Shropshire Council, Supply UK in Shrewsbury and Technical Services in Shrewsbury."

Crews called to chimney blaze

FIREFIGHTERS were called to tackle a chimney fire which broke out in an Oswestry home.

Two crews were called to a home in Pentre-Cefn at about 6.50am on Saturday.

Flames had spread into the walls of the living room. A spokesman for Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The aerial ladder platform was required so the fire could be attacked from the top of the chimney as well as the bottom."

The spokesman confirmed nobody was injured.

After issuing safety advice fire crews left the scene at 11.40am.

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Chipping on offer for dog owners

ADVICE on responsible pet ownership will be given at a dog chipping session in Welshpool this weekend.

Welshpool Town Council introduced dog control orders on many open space areas which are under its control in response to the repeated dog fouling taking place in the area.

Council bosses urged dog owners to take greater responsibility for their pets.

That message will be echoed when dog owners have the opportunity on the weekend of February 22-23 to have their pets micro-chipped for free.

The Dogs Trust, the largest dog welfare charity in the UK, is hosting their 'Chip My Dog' event at Coedydinas Garden Centre, Welshpool between 10am-4pm on both days.

Powys County Council's environmental protection team is now urging owners that haven't had their dog chipped to do so at this event. Micro-chipping involves inserting a tiny microchip under the dog's skin.

The charity will also be providing advice on a range of dog issues including responsible dog ownership.

Cllr John Powell, cabinet member for environment health, said: "I would like to thank the Dogs Trust for hosting their 'Chip My Dog' event in Welshpool. There are important benefits of micro-chipping ."

Tax office jobs are lost with offices set to close

TAX offices in Oswestry ad Welshpool are to close their doors in May as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) brings the axe down on all its remaining walk-in centres.

Centres in Shrewsbury's Guildhall, Abbey House in Telford, Stone House in Ludlow are also earmarked for closure.

HM Revenue and Customs said only a small minority of its 40 million customers used the centres, and demand halved from five million visitors in 2005-06 to fewer than two million in 2013.

Some centres are now open just one day a week, while only one in 10 needed a face-to-face appointment, said HMRC, adding there will be no compulsory redundancies.

Staff can work in the new service, take up other jobs in the organisation or apply for voluntary redundancy.

The Public and Commercial Services union said the closures will mean that 2.5 million pensioners, vulnerable workers and tax credit claimants will lose a vital service.

HMRC said that following a successful seven-month trial in the North East of England, the new service will provide expert advisers to resolve issues on the phone, or at a range of "convenient locations".

Ruth Owen, HMRC's director general for personal tax, said: "HMRC is dedicated to providing help to customers when they need it. The pilot showed that this is a valuable service for those who cannot get the help they need elsewhere.

"Our inquiry centres offer a great service to those who can reach them, but they are spread unevenly across the UK, the number of people using them continues to fall, and our research shows that the majority of customers who do use them don't actually need to. The new service will enable us to tailor help in a way that works better and is more affordable.

"Our specialised phone service will help customers."

Editor going back to school

THE economic editor of The Economist magazine will return to her former Oswestry school to address a prestigious lunch.

Zanny Minton Beddoes will attend Moreton Hall near Oswestry to address an audience of more than 300 business people at this year's centenary business lunch.

The prestigious Moreton business lunch is an annual event which has become a firm fixture in the business diaries of local and regional business leaders over the past five years.

Impressive past guest speakers include Fiona Marshall, brand and campaign marketing director of ASOS and Laura Edwards, director of innovation and brand development at Miller Brands, both leaders in their respective fields as well as Old Moretonians.

Zanny Minton Beddoes is responsible for coverage of the American economy, Western economic policy and issues relating to globalisation, and she has been an influential commentator on the Great Recession.

Cheer up - spring is on way

David Lock, head gardener at Chirk Castle.

CHEER up – it might be blowing a gale and bucketing it down, but spring is definitely on the way.

This is the beautiful scene at Chirk Castle, enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year.

And now the gardening team at the historic property on the Shropshire/Welsh border are gearing up for the popular annual snowdrop walks.

Each year the gardens and grounds at the National Trust property have a carpet of snowdrops and because of the wild winter, the flowers have come out much earlier this year than last, when the region was suffering a big freeze. They have on an amazing show, despite the wettest winter for more than 200 years and gale force winds.

A series of snowdrop walks are held throughout February, weather permitting and it is hoped the storms will disappear to allow visitors to enjoy the natural show again this year.

Call the castle on (01691) 777701.

NEWS in brief

Lost funds were vital to the area

FUNDING budgets for local joint committees – which will be lost from April - have been vital to charities and organisations in and around Oswestry, a meeting has heard.

The Oswestry and District Arts Association and the Oswestry Sports Council told a meeting that the loss of the funding was worrying.

But Shropshire Council's director for commissioning, George Candler revealed that the future committees could still have some money to hand out at a meeting of the St Oswald and Llanymynech local joint committee in Knockin about the futures of the LJCs.

Farmers call for new speed limit

FARM leaders are calling for tractors to be allowed to go faster on public roads.

They say the current 20mph limit for many vehicles hinder farmers in carrying out their work efficiently.

Members of NFU Cymru say they welcome the Department of Transport's decision to review the maximum speed limit for tractors on public roads.

Bosses from the union's Montgomeryshire branch met MP Glyn Davies to discuss the issue. County chairman Jonathan Wilkinson, said: "The current speed limits have not been reviewed for 27 years."

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Do you contract tradespeople, contractors and consultants to 'do a job for you'?
What are your responsibilities for your contractors?
What are your responsibilities as a contractor?

All businesses, large and small need to use the services of contractors (specialist tradespeople) from time to time, such as an electrician or fire consultant. However, businesses are not always fully aware of the legal implications and liability that may ensue when something involving a contractor goes wrong.

This event is aimed at all businesses and will provide an opportunity to hear about up-to-date health and safety legislation, as well as to explore key topics in relation to employing and managing contractors.

The workshop's topics will include:

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- open workshops to ask questions on health and safety, environmental and quality with one of our Chartered Consultants.

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- increase your understanding of key issues to consider when using tradespeople in your business;
- understand the questions you need to ask tradespeople at the contract tendering stage;
- understand the preparations you need to make, to ensure contractors' work goes smoothly;
- find out what to do if something goes wrong; and
- improve your understanding of your legal responsibilities.

CHAS IIRSM UKATA iosh iosh QSHCR Registered Consultant BARLOWS

NEWS

NEWS in brief

Having a say on library service

CHILDREN and young people in the Welshpool area have been airing their views on their local library.

Powys County Council's Library Service is taking part in Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy children and young people's public library survey when under 17s will be asked for their opinions. The survey will start on Monday and will show how children use the library service and their opinion of what's on offer.

Cllr Graham Brown, cabinet member responsible for library services, said: "The results will give us a clear indication of the things we need to improve or change."

Volunteers urged to join litter pick

A litter pick is being organised along the Welshpool towpath ahead of the main tourist season.

On April 12, volunteers are invited to join members of the Canal and River Trust for the event.

The Trust will supply all equipment, including pickers, gloves, high visibility tops.

Volunteers are asked to meet at 10.30am at Welshpool Town Wharf.

Free refreshments will be provided for the lunchtime finish.

Contact Freda Davies on (01938) 552817 for more details.

George is Conservative choice to fight election

By Graham Breeze

RUSSELL George has been reselected as the Welsh Conservative candidate for Montgomeryshire in the National Assembly for Wales elections in 2016.

The reselection comes as he was named Shadow Cabinet Member for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Mr George was born in Welshpool and has lived and worked in Montgomeryshire all his life. He has represented the constituency since 2011.

He said he was looking forward to the campaign and to continuing to represent and fight for the people in the area having been involved as a town and county councillor before the 2011 election.

Mr George has been instrumental in bringing forward plans for the Newtown bypass. Construction is due to begin next year.

"I feel privileged to have been reselected by the party to represent Montgomeryshire at the next Assembly elections," he said.

"It's been a challenging three years. From being involved in the campaign against the Mid Wales connection project, to obtaining commitments for the Newtown bypass. The bypass is so important for towns like Newtown, Llanidloes and Machynlleth.

Mr George was reselected at a meeting of the Montgomeryshire Conservative Association in Welshpool.

Montgomeryshire MP, Glyn Davies, said he was pleased Russell had been reselected. "Russell and I both have a passion for our communities and the people and businesses within them," he said.

"We continue to work closely together within the Assembly and at Westminster to ensure the people of Montgomeryshire get the best that they deserve. I look forward to continuing that with Russell and I'm delighted he has been reselected to represent the constituency."

Residents help shape future

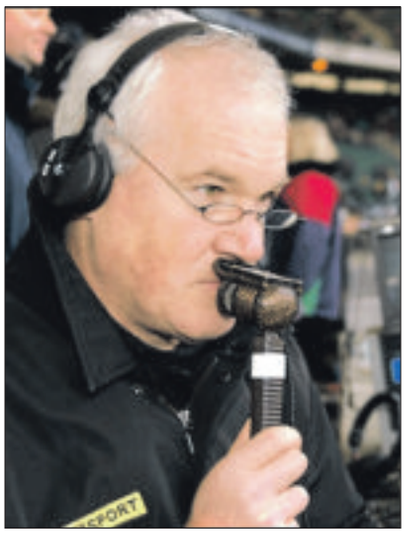
WELSHPOOL Town Council is inviting the residents to help shape the town's future with a mass consultation exercise launched on Monday.

The council is seeking views on everything from dog control to public toilets and inviting ideas and suggestions on events and initiatives for the town to adopt.

Brochures will drop through every letterbox in the coming weeks and there will be open days in Belan School on February 27 from 7pm, St John's Church, Pool Quay on March 3 from 7pm and the Corn Exchange, Town Hall on March 11 from 9am to 6.30pm. The consultation will continue through to March 23 with participation via www.welshpoolcommunityplan.org.uk. It is open to anyone who either lives in the Welshpool area or visits the town regularly.

"This is not the Town Plan which was reviewed in 2012, but a Community Plan which will set the programme for the Council over the next few years," said Town Clerk, Robert Robinson.

Voice of rugby in town



Eddie Butler is the voice of rugby

THE man widely regarded as the voice of rugby in the Northern Hemisphere has made a date with Welshpool next month.

Eddie Butler, the former Wales and British Lions No. 8, will host "An Evening of Rugby" at the Powysland Museum on March 12, from 7pm to 9pm, to coincide with its ongoing exhibition – "Rugby, the National Sport of Wales."

Mr Butler won 16 caps for Wales between 1980 and 1984, captained the national team six times and scored two tries. He was also chosen for The Barbarians and the British Lions.

The exhibition brings together artefacts and memorabilia relating to the WRU, the national team and their opponents as well as rugby teams including Welshpool Rugby Club. The items have been loaned by the WRU Archives and Museum, by St Fagans: The National History Museum and by Welshpool Rugby Club.

Booking is essential on (01938) 554656 by March 10.

Residents on benefits urged to seek help

RESIDENTS in the Welshpool area receiving housing benefits but still finding it hard to pay their rent are being urged to apply for a discretionary housing payment.

The Government is making changes to the way people receive their benefits and one of the changes includes making money available to councils to help people who find themselves in difficult or exceptional circumstances and may need some extra help. This is called discretionary housing payments.

Powys County Council receives a limited amount of funding from central government for the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme.

Councillor Dai Davies, cabinet member for finance, said: "When you apply for this payment, the council will look to see if you have some exceptional or difficult circumstances.

"The council will also check to make sure it can actually make an award towards the need or cost that residents are asking for help with."

If you want to know more go to any of the customer service points in Powys or visit the advice and benefits page on www.powys.gov.uk or call the council on 0845 602 7032.

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WELSHPOOL

Leading the way on round the world

Ready for an around-the-world walk at The Flash

WELSHPOOL is leading a fundraising challenge which will see participants collectively walk the equivalent of around the world.

Based out of the The Flash Leisure Centre, the "Keep those feet moving: Walk around the world" challenge will see centre staff and participants of two exercise schemes walk 41,570 miles over the coming months.

The challenge was officially launched on February 1 and the fundraising efforts will raise money for three charities – The British Heart Foundation, Cancer UK and Diabetes UK.

Donations to the fundraising challenge can be made through www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/WalkAroundTheWorld.

Sinden limbers up for fight

by Graham Breeze

NOT many pro-boxers prepare for the biggest fight of their career like Warren Sinden is doing.

The 24-year-old Welshpool fighter, known as bigrig, returns to the ring for the fourth time on March 22 in Birmingham, but rather than spend his time away from a gruelling training schedule by putting his feet up, Sinden is back in the gym looking to discover the next big star.

Sinden launched his boxing classes at the turn of the year with dozens of men and women entering a boxing gym in a bid to get into shape.

But the unbeaten fighter has an ulterior motive: He is looking to unearth another rough gem and cut it into shape ready for market.

"The newcomers to the gym are doing themselves proud!" he said. "Im over the moon with how well everyone is picking it up. I have spotted some naturals.

"There are definitely some future boxers among them. I wasn't sure at the start how many people would come through the door to go onto show that kind of potential but there is definitely no shortage of quality.

"It's a long hard road to getting up to competitive boxing standard but we have some that will be ready for sparring in the coming weeks. I'm buzzing," he said. "I am holding an open training session in Welshpool on March 8, at 11am, with my Birmingham training team for everyone to watch for free and see what I go through in preparation for my fight."

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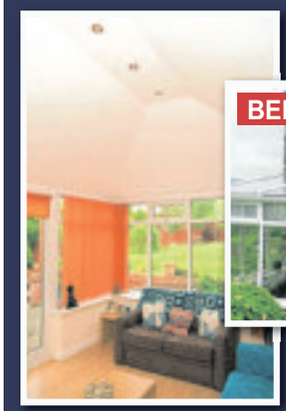

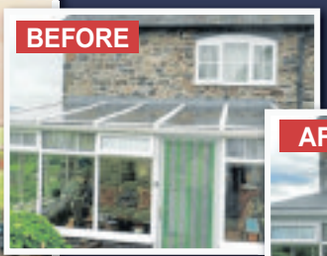

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SPOTLIGHT ON WELSHPOOL

Boutique can provide all your stylish needs

Nikki's Boutique is an independent fashion retailer which has been open in Welshpool for 21 years.

by Graham Breeze

NIKKI'S is an independent, contemporary boutique which has been trading in Welshpool for 21 years providing ladies and children's clothing from Europe.

Nikki's Boutique was established in September 1992, in Welshpool, and more recently opened Nikkis 2 in Oswestry.

Both shops are located just off the main street, down quaint passages which boast an array of independent shops. The children's labels stocked are mainly Spanish, or Canandian in beautiful vibrant colours and durable fabrics, with gifts for newborns and clothing to 12 years old .

A free gift-wrapping service is offered for all purchases made, making it that special present. Nikki's also has a great range of wooden toys at reasonable prices.

In the ladies' department Nikki's stocks sizes 8 -18. Labels include, Desigual, Lazy Jacks, Intown, Pomodoro, Fransa, N & Willow, and Jonny Q. It has everyday casual clothing like sweatshirts, jeans, and gilets, through to occasion wear including dresses, tops and trousers.To complement outfits Nikki's has a selection of jewellery from Pilgrim, Lovett & Co, to name a few. Scarves at great prices and variety of handbags are also available.

Nikki's only buys one of each size-making it a great destination to shop knowing you are unlikely to see the same outfit. Prices are in line with the high street, but quality is higher.

At Nikki's you will find a dedicated team priding themselves on truthful honest advice, with a great friendly atmosphere. More often than not people who go in as strangers leave as friends.

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SPOTLIGHT ON WELSHPOOL

Trophy company has the awards you need

Mid Wales Trophies & Engraving in Boot Street, Welshpool, has been supplying trophies for more than 25 years

MID Wales Trophies & Engraving has been supplying the sporting, cultural and business needs of the area for over 25 years.

Established in 1986 at The Studio in Boot Street, Welshpool, the company specialises in high quality awards to meet all requirements to a diverse market across Wales and the border counties.

A large section of the region's sports governing bodies turn to Mid Wales

by Andy Morris

Trophies at presentation time ,where they are guaranteed a wide and varied selection of quality awards. Many have been customers since the business opened.

Customers can choose from an impressive display of trophies always on display in the Welshpool showroom or relax in the comfort of their own home or committee room to select from the popular website or printed catalogues.

But it's not just sporting organisations that turn to Mid Wales Trophies for their supplies. Regular customers include eisteddfods, agricultural shows and carnivals.

Hand in hand with the trophy-retailing business comes a growing engraving service, complementing customer needs perfectly with orders pouring into the company's workshop for engraving, either by hand or on state-of-the-art computerised machines.

The company also offers a popular repair service where old and fading silver cups can be repaired, cleaned and re-plated to look as good as new.

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NEWS

NEWS in brief

Art exhibition in castle tower

A new multi-sensory art exhibition will open at Chirk Castle on Saturday.

The Golau exhibition will use light and sound to create art features in the castle's Adams tower.

Organisers say the exhibition will allow visitors to experience the medieval tower in a different way.

Rachel Coman, volunteering and community involvement officer at the castle, said: "Over the last few months artist Angela Davies has been working to produce a multi-sensory installation inspired by Offa's Dyke and the local landscape. Angela uses light and lace to act as a metaphor for mapping the landscape of Offa's Dyke."

Children can go on a bear hunt

OSWESTRY Library is inviting children to join in with a bear hunt in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Michael Rosen's book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' tomorrow (Friday).

During the session there will be stories and craft activities led by Katie Millard and the activities will be suitable for children ages four to 10 running from11am to noon in Arthur Street..

A session will also be held from 2pm to 3pm at Gobowen Library in St Martins Road.

The event is free but places are limited.

£80m set to be slashed from council's budgets

SHROPSHIRE Council committee members have backed proposals to make £80 million spending cuts over the next three years after a marathon six-hour meeting.

The authority's performance management scrutiny committee concluded that a draft financial strategy due to be finalised later this month represented a "reasonably robust set of figures" to make the cuts necessary to balance the authority's books.

by Chris Burn

Council leader Keith Barrow and chief executive Clive Wright assured members of the committee the targets included in the financial report will be met despite concerns being raised by members.

The authority intends to redesign all of its services in an attempt to meet the savings targets. Millions are to be cut from areas such as adult social care and services for looked-after children, while 1,700 staff jobs are being axed.

Concerns were raised by Liberal Democrat group leader Roger Evans about overspends in the current financial year, given the plan for the next three years makes clear there is no room for budgets to be increased without further cuts being made from other departments.

Mr Wright said while overspending was at around £2 million so far this year, it was hoped this could be reduced by the end of the financial year in March.

"By the time we get to the end of March, hopefully we will break even," he said.

Councillor Barrow said the Conservative-led administration had a track record for delivering savings targets since taking on the running of unitary authority in 2009.

"We have saved £87 million in the first four years of our administration," he said. "We have got robust figures and a robust track record."

Councillor Alan Mosley, leader of the Labour group, said earlier in the meeting that it was difficult to rely on the figures presented in the draft strategy given the redesign of services was still ongoing.

Mr Wright said: "Plans are done before things happen. "It is as robust as it can be."

Julie ready for big marathon test

Julie Davies will be swapping her scissors for running shoes in London Marathon.

A hairdresser will swap her scissors for running shoes as she prepares to run the London Marathon in memory of her father.

Julie Davies will be pounding the streets and hoping to raise over £1,000 for Severn Hospice, where her father Jim Lloyd received care through sponsorship and a salon sweep.

The 38-year-old, who runs Boyz II Men Barbers in Willow Street, Oswestry, said: "My dad sadly lost his brave battle against bowel cancer in May last year, aged 64.

"For those who knew him, they know what a funny, kind, generous and loving man he was.

"I am raising money for the Severn Hospice as a way of thanking them not only for caring for Dad and making the last few days of his life comfortable and as pain free as possible, but also for looking after myself, my brother and my sisters while we were there."

To sponsor Julie you should visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/JulieDaviestherunninghairdresser

Funding promised for CCTV cameras

OSWESTRY has been promised funding to run the town's CCTV system for the next three years by the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia.

But Mr Bill Longmore and his deputy Barry Sheldon were unable to give an assurance to Oswestry Town Council that West Mercia would give any funding to renew the old system.

The 2002 system was paid for by Oswestry Town Council and since then its yearly running costs have been split between firstly the borough council, the town council and then Shropshire Council.

Mr Sheldon told last week's Oswestry Town Council meeting that the funding for all Shropshire's CCTV cameras would be guaranteed for the next three years.

"We will give the funding to Shropshire Council and they will pass the funding onto the Oswestry CCTV system."

Mr Sheldon said they was a pot of funding that could be used for capital funding of CCTV systems but could not say whether this could be used towards the Oswestry scheme.

"We believe in CCTV, it is very important to the public and is a very good investigative tool."

Town clerk David Preston said further meetings were planned.

KEEPING OSWESTRY ALIVE

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thank you to all our readers and advertisers who have supported the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Keeping Oswestry Alive Campaign.

Launched in August 2013 the Oswestry Chronicle launched the campaign to provide a network of life saving defibrillators located in strategic areas across Oswestry.

Over 75,000 people die each year in the UK from sudden cardiac arrest but, with a rapid treatment from a defibrillator around 85% could be saved.

Please check the Oswestry Chronicle and our Facebook and Twitter pages for details of our campaign during 2014.

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SPOTLIGHT ON OSWESTRY

Britain's best library has busy day of events

Gillian Fynes, volunteer for Oswestry family and local history group, and team librarian Heather Rodenhurst

A number of events were held for visitors to a library hailed as Britain's best to mark a national awareness day.

By Sue Austin

Workshops and demonstrations were put on by staff at Oswestry Library, including an exhibition of Oswestry in bygone days, with photographs, newspaper cuttings and other memorabilia. There was also a workshop on computer problems and staff ran a rhyme time session for babies and toddlers along with their parents and carers.

The activities were held at the library, which attracts 250,000 visitors a year, to mark National Libraries Day.

The library in Arthur Street so impressed writer Frank Cottrell Boyce that he has made several visits to the market day and is now patron of Oswestry's literary festival which is being held in March.

Library spokeswoman Heather Rodenhurst said there were also story sessions for grown ups.

"Staff were reading great extracts from brand new adult fiction for shoppers and visitors who were please to come in from the warm and the rain," she said.

The library also has its own book doctor on hand to give advice to readers who were struggling to make choices in their literary tastes and to pint them in the directuion of some great reads.

The library also houses the Shropshire Council hub and organises regular workshops and events.

The activities were held on February 8.

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COME & MEET URI GELLER
The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry Shropshire has been challenged to create a 12 ft Gorilla statue from old spoons.
Uri Geller famous TV personality and mystifier who opens his gardens to charity, has asked the Ironwork Centre to create a monstrous gorilla sculpture from a mixture of iron & spoons from members of the British public.
Mr Geller has said: "I use the sculptures in my garden to inspire poorly children. I think it helps them to think positively."
School Campaign
Nearly 20 schools have now joined the campaign
If you are a school and you wish to be included please contact us!
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www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON OSWESTRY

Music Festival set to be better than ever

by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY Youth Music Festival 2014 promises to be a bigger and better occasion than ever.

This year the event runs from Thursday, February 27 to Sunday, March 2 and there are classes for all – from beginners to experts, from singers to instrumentalists and from solo to bands.

The Festival is part of the British and European Federation of Festivals and the organisers are committed to running a practised event to a very high standard.

The adjudications are professional and offer help and advice to each competitor and use the standard marking system. Every competitor receives a certificate and badge.

The Youth Music Festival attracts a large number of entrants from all over the North Wales/West Midlands border area, and the standard just gets better from year to year.

In fact this year organises report a record number of entrants of over 300 entrants.

All the classes are free to watch and audiences are welcomed audiences to go along and enjoy the talented performances.

Venues used are Christ Church, The Methodist Church and Holy Trinity - all within easy reach of each other.

For Class timings and performances please ring Oswestry Town Council on (01691) 680222 to request a copy of the programme or down load it from the Town Council Website www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk.

On the Sunday afternoon winners of certain classes will be invited to compete for the two Oswestry Town Council cups, then trophies and cups will be presented to class winners.

Anna Warner receives her award from Councillor Martin Bennett

Last year was a landmark year for the Youth Music Festival as the event was first introduced to mark the Queens Silver Jubilee and coincided with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

So it was fitting that entries were up on the previous year making it one of the most well attended festivals Oswestry had seen and to help celebrate a logo competition with all the local schools taking part was held.

Congratulations have already gone to Anna Warner from Bellan House, who was this year's winner of the Oswestry Youth Music Festival sticker design competition. She was awarded a voucher from the chairman Councillor Martin Bennett.

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Class Timetable

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	Time	Class
MON	10 - 11	Beginners Spin
	11 - 12	Circuits
	6:15 - 7	Bodytech Pump
	7 - 8	Spin
TUE	10 - 11	Body Conditioning
	11 - 12	Bodytech Pump
	6 - 7	Beginners Spin
	7 - 8	Spin
	8 - 9	Pilates
WED	11 - 12	Aerobics
	6 - 7	Spin
	7 - 8	Plan 2 Slim
THU	9:30 - 11	Yoga
	11 - 12	Pilates
	6 - 7	Body Conditioning
	7 - 8	Spin
FRI	10 - 11	Boxercise
	12:15-12:45	Abs Blast
	6 - 7	Spin
SAT	10 - 11	Spin

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So, if you have any travel or holiday plans, please phone, e-mail or call to discuss how we can help.

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NEWS

Opposition growing over plans for homes

PARISH councillors have added their voices to the growing opposition against plans to build a new 25-home housing estate in a Shropshire village.

Galliers Homes Ltd has lodged the plans for land at The Cross at West Felton with Shropshire Council.

The firm says its plans will provide sustainable housing and does fit planning policies.

A design and access statement lodged on behalf of the firm says: "The development proposed on the application site will be a mixture of two, three and four bedroomed properties, of semi-detached and detached houses and bungalows.

"Two properties will be affordable units and will be provided on site, and a financial contribution towards additional provision by the council elsewhere will be made by the developer."

More than 30 residents have written to object to the plans and West Felton Parish Council has also lodged an objection, claiming the homes would "cause demonstrable harm to the village". The parish council adds: "In 2005 parishioners were asked about the future direction housing should take within the parish as part of the consultations for the current Parish Plan. Seventy-three per cent of respondents stated they wanted to see no more development."

Online appeal forms 'last gasp' bid to save venue

BOSSES at an Oswestry entertainment venue say they hope support from singers and performers from around the world will help keep it open.

An online campaign to save The Ironworks has been launched after bosses were told the premises would be sold at auction in Manchester this month.

by Iain St John

The Ironworks owners Steve and Ros Gore had thought they had until the spring to raise the £140,000 to save the Church Street venue. But they have now been told by receivers brought in by their bank that the premises will be auctioned on February 27.

Mrs Gore said the couple had believed they had until May to raise the money after Shropshire Council designated the venue a community asset last year.

She said: "We have now been told there is an exemption to the community asset clause, meaning the bank can go through with an auction. The exemption allows a bank the right to recover the debt as it is a mortgage."

Mrs Gore said the couple had to close the venue in September after their bank said it wanted to shorten the length of the mortgage and increase the interest rate.

She said: "They were talking about 11 per cent above the base interest rate which was just too much. We have tried to come up with other ways around the problem and tried to renegotiate but have been unsuccessful."

Mrs Gore, 60, said she and her 63-year-old husband were turning to an online campaign to save the venue. The couple's daughter, Nicole, has launched an appeal on the international Indiegogo website to raise the money.

Mrs Gore said: "We are trying anything we can think of in a bid to raise the money for the auction. The Indiegogo site allows people to donate money to save The Ironworks and we are just trying to get the message out there now."

Mrs Gore said the couple's fight had received support from many acts who performed at the venue including comedian Patrick Monaghan, American singer Rachel Harrington and American band OPM.

Charity store's given sample gowns

Lainey Bullock dresses a window dummy as Patricia Ellis looks on from outside.

A bridal store with a difference has opened – with stunning dresses at affordable prices and helping a charity at the same time.

The new bridal department in the Barnardo's shop in Cross Street, Oswestry, has hundreds of bridal gowns and dresses and bridal party outfitsFor unlike usual charity shops none of the items in the Brides at Barnardo's stores are second hand – they are samples, donated by bridal stores.

Lainey Bullock, who runs the bridal department at the Oswestry shop, said the dresses may have been tried on by brides-to-be but all had their tags still attached.

""The savings that can be made are incredible. The dresses we sell here range in price from £100 to £250."

She said similar savings could be made on other outfits and accessories.

"We have shoes and other accessories for the bride-to-be as well as bridesmaids dresses and pageboy outfits for children and adults

NEWS in brief

Village to retain its post office service

THE Llangedwyn area is to regain a post office service although for only two hours a week.

The Post Office Ltd has announced an outreach service will be provided at Mill Cafe, at Llangedwyn Mill, just 50 metres from the previous location.

The Post Office closed last May because of the ill-health of the sub-postmaster. Now the sub-postmaster from Llanrhaeadr has agreed to provide a service at the cafe each Tuesday between 9am and 11am.

Area manger for the post office, Sarah Sampson, said the same range of services as before would continue to be available.

Hospital staff to get a health boost

WORKERS who spend their time helping the ill and injured are themselves getting help to keep healthy and cut down on sickness days off.

Doctors, nurses and other staff at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital are being given the chance to get involved in the Healthy Horizons initiative. This year the hospital is focussing on screening staff aged 45 and over, to identify future health issues. Sue Pryce, deputy director of human resources, said it was important to help staff cope with the often less obvious problems of stress, anxiety and depression.

Advertisement

TOP TEAM WIN AWARD

First Choice shop in Oswestry have scooped another award for their outstanding customer service.

The team were delighted to be presented the award from Don Bircham, the company Managing Director at their recent awards presentation evening.

Sally Roberts who is the branch manager has now worked in the Oswestry branch for 10 years, Sally is highly regarded within the business and also has a wealth of experience including being a cruise expert and wedding expert.

Sally said " We had no idea we would win the award and are thrilled that our efforts have been recognised for providing the very best advice and service to our customers"

Kayleigh Hones - Assistant Shop Manager also won the award for Top Assistant Manager in the company for sales and service. Kayleigh has worked for First Choice for the past ten years also and has a wealth of experience, she has worked and travelled throughout Europe gaining invaluable knowledge for her customers.

First Choice are part of the TUI group, one of the largest travel providers in the world, the Oswestry branch is situated at 20 Cross Street. The branch has ample browsing space, full foreign exchange facilities and the very latest travel technology, ensuring that the customer receives the best holiday deals on offer.

In these challenging times it is important that you spend your holiday money wisely, every First Choice and Thomson holiday we sell is fully covered against tour operator or airline failure. You can book in the knowledge that your hard earned cash is completely safe.

First Choice offer a wide choice of holidays throughout the world including its award winning Holiday Villages which offer premium family holidays at affordable prices.

Summer 2014 holidays are selling fast due to the fantastic prices on offer and the amazing deals from First Choice including free child places and low deposits.

So if it's just a short UK break, a cruise or that memorable family holiday, call in to the shop in Oswestry or call 01691 655654, either way our staff will be more than happy to help you.

ADVERTISEMENT

Oswestry has its very own Pearly Queen!

A weight loss expert from Oswestry has won an award for the exceptional work she does in helping more than 150 people to lose weight at her local groups every week.

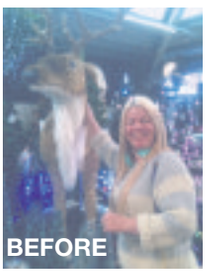
Claire Morris, who runs the Cabin Lane Slimming World groups every Monday, has been awarded 'Pearl' status by the national slimming club because of her success in supporting slimmers to reach their dream weight and in recognition of the super service she provides to those members.

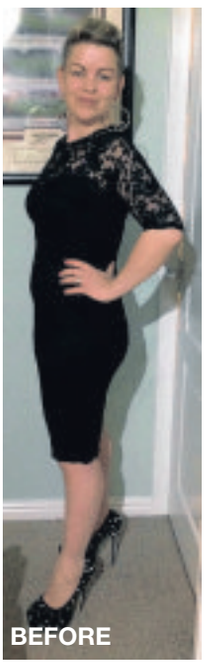
The accolade is given to Slimming World Consultants who consistently have 75 or more members in their group over several months, and when the service they provide is so good that members come back week after week because they're losing weight beautifully and wouldn't miss their weekly group for anything. It represents the highest level of service in slimming and means Oswestry is home to one of the best Slimming World Consultants in UK.

Claire says: ''I am delighted to have received the 'Pearl' award. I absolutely love my job and I think this is a wonderful award to receive. Pearls are something beautiful hidden inside an outer shell so it's a wonderful metaphor for what we do at Slimming World, we help people to shed the misery of excess weight so that they can discover the real them inside and become the person that they always dreamed of being. It's not just about looking different though, it's about feeling happier, healthier and more confident too. Seeing that transformation in people is what I love most about my job and I'm passionate about helping and supporting my members to change their lives by losing weight.

One of her members, Michelle Jones, who helped Claire achieve this award joined Slimming World because she was fed up with how she felt. ''I'd noticed the weight gradually creeping on and I was feeling really miserable. I'd heard about The Cabin Lane group and the amazing support you receive to help with weight loss so I decided to join. My weight was dropping of beautifully and I was really enjoying eating all my favourite foods in unlimited amounts, yes...even steak and chips, when I found out I was pregnant. Rather than do what I did when I was pregnant with my daughter and eat for 2, 3 and even 4 I carried on going to group and when I had my son in August I was actually lighter than when I'd found out I was pregnant and I also felt great and had far more energy this time round. The Slimming World plan is a really healthy way of eating that can be enjoyed by the whole family and now that I'm very close to my target weight I'd like to thank Claire and her groups for all their support on my journey.

To join in one of the Cabin Lane groups, which are held every Monday at 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm at The Whole Life Centre, Cabin Lane, either pop along or give Claire a call on 07882 174539.





Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Substantial farmhouse comes with holiday let

A four bedroomed period detached stone former farmhouse with later extensions, Cefn Lane Farm, Cefn Lane, Nantmawr, Oswestry, also comes with a two bedroomed holiday let, a paddock and stables.

Standing in around 1.94 acres, it also has planning permission for a further three bedroomed holiday let and is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £550,000.

The main house has a porch, entrance hall, inner hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge, dining room/family room, breakfast kitchen, four bedrooms, a bathroom and a shower room, garage/workshop and gardens, oil central heating and double glazing.

The holiday annexe has an entrance hall, open plan kitchen/living area, bedroom one, a downstairs bathroom and mezzanine bedroom two.

The lounge has a feature stone built fireplace with a multi-fuel Efel stove.

The breakfast kitchen has Shaker style units, a New World electric cooking range with five ring hob and double oven with stainless steel splash-back with extractor hood over and tiled flooring.

For further information contact Morris Marshall & Poole on (01691) 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk

Charming detached cottage surrounded by countryside

A detached country property with rural views in all directions is on the market for offers in the region of £259,995.

Set in about a third of an acre of gardens, Cornfields, at Melverley, near Oswestry, boasts three reception rooms and three bedrooms with the potential to extend further (subject to planning).

The property has been well maintained and selling agents Town & Country say viewing is essential to appreciate its location and condition. Call them on (01691) 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com to find out more.

Delightful modern bungalow offering space and comfort

On sale with Halls, 8 Mount View is a beautifully presented detached bungalow on a small rural development with pleasant gardens to front and rear . The double-glazed, centrally heated accommodation is well laid out and comprises a porch, living/dining room and kitchen.

A door from the living area leads into an inner hall which gives access to three bedrooms, a conservatory and family bathroom.

The agents have set a guide price of £190,000. Contact Halls on 01938 555552 to arrange a viewing.

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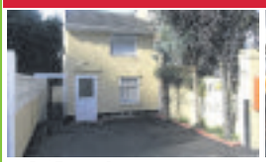

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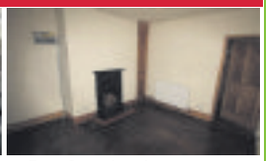

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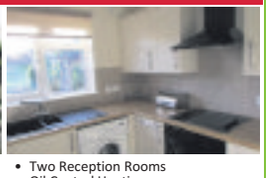
£132,495

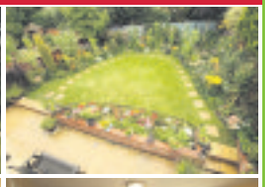
LLANRHAEADR-YM-MOCHNANT



- Semi-Detached Property
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Three Bedrooms. EPC C
- Two Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Backing Onto Fields & River

£164,950

WESTON RHYN



- Detached Modern House
- Three Bedrooms
- Ensuite & Bathroom
- Utility & W.C.
- Beautiful Gardens
- Garage and Parking. EPC D
- Double Glazing Throughout
- Gas Central Heating

£179,950

GOBOWEN

- Detached Cottage
- Well Presented
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Attractive Gardens
- Central Heating/ D. Glazing

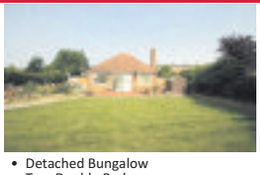
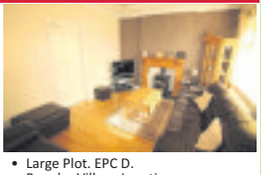
£169,950

MORDA

- Modern Mews House
- Four Bedrooms. EPC B
- Garage and Parking
- En Suite Shower Room
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£169,950

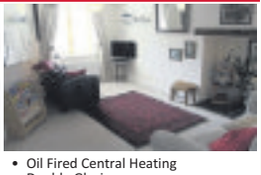
CHIRK

- Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Enclosed Gardens
- Large Plot. EPC D.
- Popular Village Location
- Viewing Essential

£174,500

TREFONEN



- End Mews House
- Four Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking & Garden
- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- En Suite & Cloakroom

£177,500

OSWESTRY

- Detached Family House
- Four Bedrooms. EPC C
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- En Suite, Cloaks & Utility

Offers in the region of £182,500

TREFONEN

- Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Potential to Extend
- Set in 1/2 Acre of Land

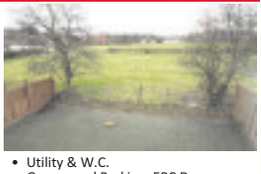
£325,000

LLYNCLYS

- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Rear Garden
- Ample Parking. EPC E
- Double Garage
- Oil Central Heating

£179,950

WESTON RHYN



- NO CHAIN!!!
- Detached Modern House
- Three Bedrooms
- Utility & W.C.
- Garage and Parking. EPC D
- Double Glazing Throughout

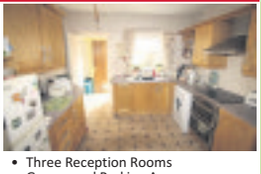
£179,950

OSWESTRY

- NO CHAIN
- Extended Semi-Detached House
- Well Maintained. EPC E
- Conservatory
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

Offers in the region of £179,950

LLANRHAEADR



- Detached House
- Former Village Police Station
- Set in Approx. 1/3 Acre
- Three Reception Rooms
- Garage and Parking Area
- Front and Rear Gardens

Offers in the region of £200,000

WEST FELTON

- NO CHAIN!
- PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED!!!
- Detached Family Home
- Five Bedrooms

Offers in the region of £209,950

GOBOWEN

- Modern Ex- Show Home
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Cul de Sac Location. EPC C
- Immaculate Presentation

£229,950

WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

- Large Semi Detached Cottage
- Four Double Bedrooms
- NO CHAIN!!
- Large Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £245,000

MORDA

- Modern Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- NO CHAIN!!!

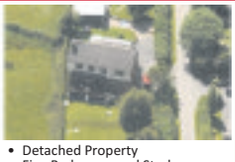
£245,000

PANT

- Large Detached Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Conservatory. EPC D
- Double & Single Garages

£289,950

RHOS-Y-BRITHDIR



- Detached Property
- Five Bedrooms and Study
- Three Reception Rooms
- Garage. EPC D.

£355,000

2-4 Willow Street, Oswestry, SY11 1AA Visit all our propertiesat www.townandcountryoswestry.com

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OswestryOwlbrook and Waen Wen Farm Bridge
3 BED DET HOUSE
3 BED BARN CONVERSION
RURAL VIEWS
EPC RATING G AND D
OFFERS OVER £795,000

Llanrhaedr Ym Mochnant Penyboncyn Pen-y-garnedd
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £449,950

Oswestry Min-y-dwr Llanyblodwel
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
OPEN PLAN LIVING AREA
EPC RATING C
OIRO £379,950

Oswestry Spring Cottage Candy
3 BED DET COTTAGE
2.5 ACERS (Appox)
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £369,950

Oswestry 20 Hampton Road
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £309,950

Selattyn OswestryRock House Gyrn Road
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING D
OIRO £269,950

Oswestry 25 Grosvenor Road
4 BED DET HOUSE
DOUBLE GARAGE
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £254,950

Glyn Ceiriog Glascoed Dolywern
3/4 BED DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
ENVIABLE VIEWS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £249,950

LlanymynechShaftesbury Four Crosses
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
OIL CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £225,000

Oswestry 41 Oakhurst Road
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £224,950

Weston Rhyn Oswestry49 Long Croft
3/ 4 BED DET HOUSE
2/ 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £189,995

OswestryThe Coach House Penygarreg Lane
2 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
OIL CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £189,950

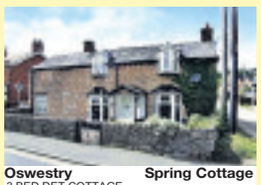
LlanymynechCoed Y Lade, 2 Tanyfoel Drive
3/4 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £184,950

Oswestry 123 Middleton Road
3 BED DET DORMER BUNG
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £179,950

WANTED NOW!
4 BED DETACHED HOUSES
IN THE OSWESTRY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES
FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
UP TO **£250,000**
FREE VALUATION
NO OBLIGATION

WANTED NOW!
3 BED SEMI DETACHED HOUSES
IN THE OSWESTRY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES
FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
UP TO **£160,000**
FREE VALUATION
NO OBLIGATION

Gobowen Oswestry34 Twmpath Lane
3 BED SEMI-DET
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
FRONT & REAR GARDENS
OIRO £177,950



Oswestry Spring Cottage
3 BED DET COTTAGE
FORMER POST OFFICE
PERIOD FEATURES
EPC RATING F
OIRO £174,950

Pant Rachie Tregarthen Lane
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
GARAGE
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING D
£162,950

Morda Oswestry 2 Sweeney Drive
3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £154,950

WANTED NOW!
2 BED BUNGALOWS AND HOUSES
IN THE OSWESTRY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES
FOR WAITING PROCEEDABLE BUYERS!
UP TO **£130,000**
FREE VALUATION
NO OBLIGATION

LANDLORDS WANTED
FOR
HOUSES IN
OSWESTRY AND SURROUNDING AREAS
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PLEASE CALL
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FOR MORE DETAILS

OswestryEaston Glebe Salop Road
3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING F
OPEN TO OFFERS £159,950

Whittington OswestryWakefield Villa Station Road
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
PLANNING TO EXTEND
EPC RATING E
OIRO £149,950

Whittington Oswestry49 Penybryn Avenue
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING C
OIRO £137,500

Oswestry 63 Smale Rise
2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/DINER
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £124,950

St Martins Oswestry22 Coopers Field
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
UTILITY/STORE ROOM
FAMILY PARKING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £119,950

Oswestry 10 College Road
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
OFF ROAD PARKING
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £117,950

Oswestry 40 Ascot Road
2 BED TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING B
ASKING PRICE £117,500

St Martins 2 New Terrace
2 BED MID TERRACE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £115,500

Llanfyllin Random Cottage
2 BED DET PROPERTY
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £99,950

Nr Gobowen Oswestry3 Daywell Cottages
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
PVC D/G
EPC RATING F
OFFERS OVER £95,000

Oswestry 39 Castle Street
2 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OFFERS OVER £89,950

Gobowen 1 Meadowbrook Court
1 BED SEMI-DET BUNGALOW
LIVING/DINING ROOM
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £69,950

LETTINGS

TREDERWEN COTTAGE, LLANSANTFFRAID. 1 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£260 PCM
49 ALBERT ROAD, OSWESTRY. 1 BED FLAT	£300 PCM
23 YORK STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£450 PCM
19 SCHOOL ROAD, WEST FELTON. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£450 PCM
31 GITTIN STREET, OSWESTRY. 3 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£495 PCM
3 SYCAMORE CLOSE, ST MARTINS. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£500 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£525 PCM
1 BEDFORD VILLAS, WHITTINGTON. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£595 PCM
11 MANDIR CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 3 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£595 PCM

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The Property Ombudsman

Head and Shoulders Above The Rest

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Letting Fees
Credit Check
(per person aged 18 or over)
£50.00
Tenancy Administration fee
£195.00

ASSOCIATED LONDON OFFICE **LOCAL KNOWLEDGE** **REGIONAL COVERAGE** **NATIONAL PRESENCE**

Property

Cottage includes a barn with permission for conversion

Forge Farm is a very well presented detached country cottage with great potential, having been a former riding school and smithy. The three-bedroom property has full planning permission to extend an adjoining barn, and there is a further detached barn (formerly three stables), seven further stables with light and shelter, and a tack room. Off the yard is a field of about 0.8 acres with water.There is ample parking, oil fired central heating and attractive gardens.

Contact Samuel Wood on 01691 659951 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk

Good-sized family semi close to popular primary school

A good-sized semi-detached family home with plenty of parking and good-sized rear gardens is on the market with Samuel Wood.
Located just down the road from a successful primary school, 9 Belle Vue, Morda, includes a living room, kitchen, cloaks/WC, large conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom.
The property is priced at offers around £129,995 with no upward chain.

Contact Samuel Wood on 01691 659951 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk

Versatile detached bungalow presented to high standard

Candia, at Great Ness, near Shrewsury, is an exceptionally well appointed detached bungalow which has been tastefully improved. On sale for £294,500, it comprises a reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen with appliances, breakfast room, utility, three double bedrooms, one en-suite, and a family bathroom.
The good-sized gardens have been attractively landscaped to include well-kept lawns, a patio, kitchen garden and greenhouse.

Contact Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com

Two-bedroom apartment is convenient for town centre

A spacious ground floor apartment tucked away in a quiet position close to Oswestry town centre is on the market with JJ Dell.
Flat 4 Oswalds Court, Jemmett Close, comprises an entrance hall, kitchen with oven and hob, living room, two bedrooms, shower room, communal garden and an allocated parking space plus visitor parking. The agents have set a guide price of £119,950.

Contact JJ Dell on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk

SAMUEL WOOD
PROPERTY AGENTS

OSWESTRY

- A two bedroom terraced house
- Conveniently located for Primary School and the Town Centre
- Open plan lounge/dining area, re-styled fitted kitchen
- and bathroom, enclosed garden to the rear
- EPC Ordered

£108,000

WEST FELTON

- An individual family home in a sought after Village
- Reception Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Conservatory, Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Room, Cloakroom/W.C, Master Bedroom with en-suite shower room
- 3 further bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Double garage with two doors
- Driveway with ample parking, a good sized corner plot with gardens to front and rear
- EPC Rating D

£299,950

OSWESTRY

- A very well presented 3 bedroom detached house
- A re-styled kitchen/Breakfast room, Living room, family bathroom
- Enclosed rear gardens with pathway leading to Garage
- EPC Ordered

£137,950

LLANFYLLIN

- A very well presented 5 bedroom family residence
- Countryside views EPC Rating D
- Minutes away from a highly reputable secondary school
- Ample parking, Garage and Gardens
- Internally briefly comprising, Downstairs Cloaks/w.c., Breakfast Kitchen, Dining Room, Utility, Living Room, Conservatory, Ensuite to master Bedroom, Family Bathroom, 4 further Bedrooms
- EPC Rating D

£325,000

TREFLACH

- A 4 bedroom Detached Bungalow EPC Rating D
- Good sized plot with ample parking for cars, caravan, motor home etc., with detached Garage, orchard and gardens
- Situated in a sought after edge of Village location
- There is NO CHAIN with this property
- Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate its location

£229,950

SELATTYN

- An immaculate 4 bedroomed Detached Country property. EPC rating D
- An ideal location for views, walking and riding.
- Minutes away from Oswestry's Old Racecourse and Equestrian Centre
- Stretches of walks and rides. Breakfast kitchen with Rayburn,
- Living Room, 4 bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Ample Parking and Gardens
- Two Garages one with Inspection Pit

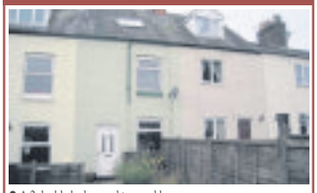
£310,000

OSWESTRY

- An Immaculate 3 bedroom semi detached house
- recently undergone refurbishment by the present owners
- Located within easy walking distance of the Town Centre and schools
- Benefitting from Entrance Hall, Breakfast Kitchen, Living Room, Utility,
- 3 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom
- Good sized enclosed gardens with patio area - EPC ordered

£147,000

OSWESTRY



- A 2 double bedroomed terraced house
- Located on the outskirts of Oswestry Town Centre
- but within walking distance
- Re-styled kitchen and bathroom, Living room with feature fireplace
- Garden. EPC Rating D

£119,500

ST MARTINS

- RENT £675 PCM
- A two bedroom Detached Country Cottage set in a semi rural position
- Living Room, Kitchen, Cloaks, Dining Room, two double bedrooms, Bathroom
- With good sized gardens and detached barn with stables and kennels.
- EPC Ordered

£675

MEIFOD

- 5 bedroom spacious and versatile Detached Family House
- Having a wealth of beams, large inglenook fireplace to the living room and feature staircase
- En-suite to master bedroom, newly fitted family bathroom, separate dining room
- Gravelled parking area with additional space for motor home or caravan
- EPC Rating F. NO CHAIN

£345,000

MAESBURY

- EPC RATING E
- Located in the sought after Village of Maesbury
- In a picturesque position with a Brook running to the one side
- To the rear there is ample parking, Garage and gated steps leading down to the River Morda
- Also benefitting from an enclosed seating area
- Internally the property comprises, Kitchen, Utility, Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms, Living Room and Separate Dining Room
- Internal inspection recommended

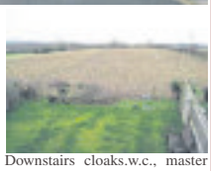
£225,000

FOUR CROSSES

- A well presented 3 bedroomed house with Garage and good sized gardens
- EPC Rating D
- Located in popular area with easy access to Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Welshpool
- Briefly comprising, Kitchen, Dining Room, Living Room
- Cloaks/w.c., 3 bedrooms, Family bathroom
- Viewing recommended.

£155,000

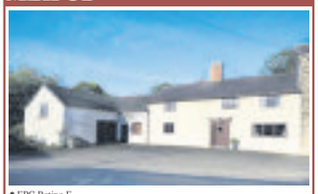
MORDA



- An immaculate 4 bedroom detached house with Garage
- Early viewing recommended. Views over fields to rear
- Breakfast/kitchen with two sets of patio doors opening out to garden
- Living room, Downstairs cloaks.w.c., master bedroom with ensuite
- 3 further bedrooms, family bathroom, gardens to front and rear
- Off road parking EPC Rating C

£217,000

MEIFOD



- EPC Rating F
- Period Village House, 4 Bedrooms, 0.469 acre Plot backing onto Fields
- Also with Annexe (The Coach House) with Planning Permission for conversion into a three bedroom dwelling
- Both properties can be purchased separately or as a whole. BEAUTIFUL GARDENS AND ORCHARD HIDDEN BEHIND THE LION HOUSE
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

£325,000

CROESAU BACH

- FIELD AND STABLE - APPROX 3 ACRES
- A Cottage with breathtaking views
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Conservatory. VIEWING A MUST
- Epc Rating D

£367,500

MORDA

- A good sized family home with parking for approx 5 vehicles. EPC Rating D
- A real asset to the property are the good sized rear gardens and large conservatory
- Briefly comprises, Living room, kitchen, downstairs cloaks/w.c., Large conservatory, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom
- Approx 1.5 miles from Oswestry, within easy access of the A5

£129,995

3 Queen's Court, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB, Opposite Iceland. 01691 659951
www.samuelwood.co.uk oswestry@samuelwood.co.uk
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RICS
NAEA

Halls 1845

NEW

Arguably, enjoying the most imposing position within this most sought after location and situated at the head of a quiet cul de sac. Offering spacious and adaptable accommodation and set in a generous sized plot with woodland to the boundary. This property has been well looked after by the current owners and the accommodation is immaculate. Current EPC Rating C.

Woodlands Park, Oswestry
Price: £399,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

A rare opportunity to purchase a three bedroom detached house with parking and garden located near to Oswestry Town Centre. This property benefits from UPVC double glazing and is available for sale with NO CHAIN.

- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms Bathroom, Parking
- Gardens to Front & Rear.
- Short Walk to Town
- Current EPC Rating F

Chapel Street, Oswestry
Price: £135,000
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

This three storey THREE bedroom end of terrace town house is situated within a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre offering immaculate accommodation fitted to a high specification including good quality 'Quick Step' laminate flooring throughout the ground floor.

- R'Hall, WC, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom Two, Family Bathroom
- Bedroom Three, Master Suite
- Enclosed Rear Garden, Parking
- Ideal Investment
- Current EPC Rating C

Cambrian Mews, Oswestry
Price: £147,500
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This detached country style cottage dates back to the 1800's and benefits from panoramic views across the Shropshire and Cheshire Plains

- Located Down A Quiet Country Lane
- Generous Sized Cottage Gardens
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Double Garage & Parking
- Viewing Advised
- Current EPC Rating D

Robins Corner, Tedsmore
Price: £325,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A South Facing detached two bedroom bungalow situated on a corner plot in a quiet cul de sac location, a short walk from Oswestry town centre having the benefit of a conservatory, detached garage, easy maintenance gardens, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing. This property needs to be viewed to be appreciated. Current EPC Rating D

- Shower Room with Steam Unit
- Bedroom One, Conservatory
- Bedroom Two, Garage

Greenbank Close, Oswestry
Price: £157,500
Contact Oswestry

An immaculate detached three bedroom family home situated on a corner plot offering two reception rooms and lovely conservatory. The property is located within a quiet cul de sac location within a popular village. Gas Central Heating & UPVC double glazing.

- Lounge, Study/Utility
- Dining Room, Conservatory
- Kitchen, Cloakroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Parking and Gardens
- Current EPC Rating D

Meadow Way, Gobowen
Price: £169,950
Contact Oswestry

A fine example of a detached country residence situated in a most sought after rural location. Countryside walks are abundant and the property offers spacious adaptable accommodation.

- 4 Double Bedrooms
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Double Garage & Ample Parking
- Mature South Facing Gardens
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating E

Golden Grove, Treflach
Price: £425,000
Contact Oswestry

A three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location.

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Receptions & Garden Room
- Oil Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating D

Maes Y Parc, Chirk
Price: £94,950
Contact Oswestry

This beautifully presented three bedroom cottage bungalow has the most wonderful views across the Ceiriog Valley. Located in the picturesque village of Pantfadog which provides a post office, local shops and a river running through.

- Thee Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gardens, Parking & Garage
- Current EPC Rating E

Glas Coed, Pontfadog
Price: £249,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW NO CHAIN

Situated in a quiet cul de sac location this four bedroom family home needs to be viewed to be appreciated. The property sits centrally within a good size plot with mature gardens, double garage and ample parking.

- Kitchen Breakfast Room, Utility
- Lounge, Dining Room, Study
- Master Bedroom Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Storage, Parking
- Double Garage, Mature Gardens
- Current EPC Rating C

Kingsbury, Schhol Lane, St Martins
Price: £295,950
Contact Oswestry

NEW

A unique opportunity to purchase a COTTAGE with ANNEXE and LARGE WORKSHOP. Situated in a most convenient semi rural within a short drive from the A5 this property must be viewed to appreciate its full potential.

- Dining Room, Living Room
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom, Gardens
- Parking, Turning Forecourt
- Large 31ft long Workshop
- Current EPC Rating E

Wootton Cottages, Queenshead
Price: £285,000
Contact Oswestry

NEW

A well presented five bedroom detached family home situated in a most poplar semi rural location. This property could provide a family home with a one bedroom annex or a substantial family residence. (Lower Landing Accommodation could provide self contained accommodation (subject to permissions).

- Five Bedrooms
- Current EPC Rating D

Gibraltar Lane, Treflach
Price: £330,000
Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A BRAND NEW detached executive family home situated in a sought after and popular residential area of Oswestry town. Within a few minutes from Oswestry Town Centre and a short drive from lovely countryside walks.

- NHBC Guarantee
- Views over Oswestry Town
- Three Reception Rooms
- Double Garage
- Immaculate Accommodation

Mount Rise, Oswestry
Price: £379,950
Contact Oswestry

This first floor three bedroom apartment benefits from views to the Castle Ruins, across the playing fields and to the Church in the distance

- 3 Bedroom Apartment
- Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Village Location
- Garden
- Current EPC Rating D

Birch Grove, Ruyton XI Towns
Price: £92,500
Contact Oswestry

This extended THREE bedroom family home is situated in a popular residential area with views across open countryside.

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Countryside Views To Rear
- Current EPC Rating F

Artillery Road, Park Hall
Price: £150,000
Contact Oswestry

This executive detached South facing family home is situated in the heart of this popular picturesque village with South facing views to the front across open fields to the River Perry in the distance

- 5 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Over Three Floors
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Parking
- NHBC Guarantee
- Current EPC Rating C

Grove Court, Ruyton XI Towns
Price: Offers over £249,950
Contact Oswestry

This cottage benefits from magnificent views over the English/Welsh borderland to The Breidden Hills and across to the Shropshire Plain. Nestled on the side on Llanymynech Hill this property is a walkers dream with many routes and trails across unspoilt countryside, Offas Dyke or Montgomery Canal.

- 3 Double Bed Cottage
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Sits In Approx 0.65 Of An Acre
- Current EPC Rating E

View Cottage, Llanymynech
Price: £285,000
Contact Oswestry

A detached three bedroom bungalow situated in a pleasant semi rural location with views of open countryside offering good size gardens with orchard, garage and ample parking.

- 3 Bed Bungalow
- Oil CH
- UPVC DG
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Good Sized Gardens & Orchard
- Current EPC Rating E

Dol Awel, Deytheur
Price: Offers over £275,000
Contact Oswestry

Head Office	01743 450700	Shrewsbury Auction Centre	01743 462620	Shrewsbury	01743 236444
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Associated Office at Worcester 01905 611066

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www.hallsgb.com

Welshpool office:
28 BROAD STREET
WELSHPOOL
SY21 7RW

01938 554818

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www.morrismarshall.co.uk

Oswestry office:
16 LEG STREET
OSWESTRY
SY11 2NN

01691 679595

rightmove.co.uk

RICS

NEW

97 Old Chirk Road, Gobowen £149,995

- Detached two bedroom bungalow
- Lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory
- Gas-fired central heating, double glazing
- Det garage, Good sized enclosed gardens
- Well served village with railway station
- EPC rating = 53 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

NEW

Stone Cottage, Llanymynech £129,950

- Detached 2 bedroom village cottage
- Oil-fired central heating and stove
- Lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, Bathroom
- Internal character features. On-site parking
- Enclosed courtyard, partly covered
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 38

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

NEW

Edderton Farmhouse, Forden Welshpool £200,000

- Spacious Attached Former Farmhouse
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Diner. Utility/Freezer Rm
- 5/6 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. Oil Fired Heating
- Front paved area. Rear Garden Area
- Expansive views across Severn Valley from rear
- In need of some modern refitting
- Energy efficiency rating = 28

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

NEW

Ar Y Craig, Stone Lane Welshpool £299,950

- Unique Split level Detached 3 Bed Property
- Lounge, Conservatory, Kitchen. Bathroom
- Ground Floor Sitting Room, Utility, Shower
- Integral Garage. Car Port
- Part electric & solid fuel heating. D/Glazed
- Terraced decking lawn and seating area
- Energy efficiency rating = 33

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

NEW

1 Fairview Avenue, Guilsfield £210,000

- Detached & Extended Village Bungalow
- Sitting/Dining, Conservatory. Kitchen, Office
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom. Gas heating. D/glazed
- Ample garden grounds. Detached Garage
- Situated in a popular village location
- In Good Decorative Order Throughout
- Energy efficiency rating = 64

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

108 Brookfield Road, Welshpool £150,000

- Detached Bungalow on good sized plot
- Sitting Room, Dining/Third Bedroom, Kitchen
- Two Further Bedrooms, Wet Room
- Gas Fired Heating. UVPC Double Glazing
- Car Port. Gardens Front and Rear
- Ideal Retirement Bungalow. No Chain
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 65

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Penyboncyn, Penygarnedd Llanrhaeadr YM £449,950

- Det Country Property within 6 Acres
- Exceptional views of the Tanat Valley
- Spacious Sitting/Living Area, Family Rm
- Kitchen/Breakfast. Utility Area, Sep W.C
- 4 Bedrooms, En-Suite & Bathroom
- Oil Fired Heating. Double Glazed
- Garage/Workshop. EPC Rating = 63

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

15 Dolwen, Guilsfield £162,000

- Spacious Semi-Detached 3 Bedroom House
- 2 Receptions, Snug. Kitchen,
- Utility, Separate W.C.
- Gas Fired Heating. Double Glazed. Parking
- Encl rear garden. Space for Garage (stp)
- Energy Efficiency Rating =TBC

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

5 Chepstow Avenue, Guilsfield £155,000

- Semi-Detached 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Sitting Room, Kitchen
- Bathroom, Separate W.C
- Oil Fired Heating. D/Glazed. Single Garage
- Open front lawn. Enclosed garden to rear
- Open amenity space adjacent
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 57

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

15 Market Street, Llanfyllin

- Mid Terrace late Victorian 2 Bedroom House
- Sitting and Living Rooms, Kitchen. Bathroom
- Rear yard with pedestrian access
- Gas Fired Heating. Double Glazed
- Suitable for First Time Buyer/Investor
- Good order throughout
- Energy efficiency rating = 51

£130,000

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

"COLLECTIVE PROPERTY AUCTION THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014 AT 2:PM AT WELSHPOOL LIVESTOCK MARKET, SY21 8SR"

AUCTION

Bryn Cottage, Maesbury, SY10 8HD Guide Price £145,000

- Rurally located detached bungalow
- In need of significant refurbishment works
- Two receptions, kitchen, utility,
- Three bedrooms, bathroom & garage
- Encl gardens overlooking adjoining fields
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 1

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

AUCTION

Salem Chapel & Chapel House, Trefnanney. Guide Price: £50,000

- Former Chapel & adjoining Chapel House
- Potential conversion subject to planning
- Three Bedroomed House - tenanted
- Spacious rear garden
- Open outlook to front & rear
- Energy efficiency rating = 1

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

AUCTION

Montrose, Gungrog Rd, Welshpool Guide Price: £110,000 to £120,000

- Detached Bungalow with manageable garden
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining Room
- Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Off road parking. Front Garden
- Gas Fired Heating. Double Glazed
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 55

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

AUCTION

Marwen, Llansantffraid Guide Price: £65,000 to £75,000

- Grade II Listed Mid-Terrace House
- Requiring renovation & refurbishment
- 2 Receptions, 2 Bedrooms
- Rear garden. Outside W.C & Store
- Centre of village location
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 28

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Plas Arthur, 26 Salop Rd, Welshpool. Guide Price: £160,000 to £175,000

AUCTION

- Semi-Detached Late Victorian Property
- Two Receptions, Kitchen, G/Floor Shower
- 5 Bedrooms, Bathroom. Gas C/Heating
- Det Garage & Vehicular access to rear
- Would benefit from some modern refitting
- Energy efficiency rating = 48

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

AUCTION

Tegfan, Abercegir, Nr Machynlleth Guide Price: £75,000 to £80,000

- Spacious Cottage of Character
- Sitting Room with inglenook fireplace
- 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room
- Partial D/Glazing, Night Storage Heating
- 3 miles from Machynlleth
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 21

MachynllethOffice 01654 702472

AUCTION

Brooklyn, Hodley, Kerry Guide Price: £115,000

- Det Bungalow of prefabricated construction
- In need of refurbishment/Potential Building Plot
- Oil C/Heating, Energy Efficiency Rating = 49
- Entrance Porch & Hall, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Lounge, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, W.C
- Det Garage, Parking, Enclosed rear garden
- Potential Building Plot 0.28 acres (0.11ha)

Newtown Office 01686 626160

AUCTION

2 Apartments over Barclays Bank, Llanidloes. Guide Price: £150,000

- Residential Property Investment
- Separately accessed off Great Oak Street
- Located within the centre of the town
- Spacious well appointed apartments
- Producing a 6% gross yield on guide price
- Energy Efficiency Ratings = 66 & 67

Llanidloes Office 01686 412567

AUCTION

Caerleon, Brookfield Rd, Welshpool Guide Price: £100,000 to £120,000

- Detached Modern House with Garage
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining, Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gas Heating, Secondary & double glazing
- Open front lawn. Enclosed rear patio
- First Time Buyer/Investment
- Energy efficiency rating = 69

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Also Included in the Auction

Ger Y Mor, Clarech Road, Borth

- 3 Bed Mid-Terrace Property
- Seaside location, superb coastal views
- Guide Price: £124,000 to £135,000

2 Garages at Dyffryn Ent Park, Newtown

- Guide Price: £10,000

3 Clatter Cottages, Clatter

- 3 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Cottage
- Guide Price: £45,000

Auction Catalogues Available Shortly

Aberystwyth • 01970 625020
Llanidloes • 01686 412567
Machynlleth • 01654 702472

Newtown • 01686 626160
Oswestry • 01691 679595
Shrewsbury • 01743 247755

Tywyn • 01654 710388
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Aberdyfi • window display

Property

Rural cottage with paddocks and outbuilding

A much improved four-bedroom detached cottage set in just under 2.75 acres of grounds and paddocks is on sale for offers around £389,950.

Approached over a long driveway, The Orchard, Babbinswood, comprises an entrance hall, shower room, study, living room with fireplace, dining room, attractive refitted kitchen, utility, conservatory, four bedrooms, refitted bathroom, oil-fired central heating, pvc double glazing and a useful brick built outbuilding.

Contact selling agents Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 or visit the webstie www.richmondharvey.com for more details.

RICHMOND HARVEY

Detached house convenient for town centre

A superbly appointed detached house convenient for Oswestry town centre is on the market with Bowen Son & Watson at an asking price of £249,995.

Burcot House, Oak Drive, comprises an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom, four bedrooms, one en-suite, and a family bathroom.

The property benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, driveway, integral garage and neatly kept rear garden with lawn and patio.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk to find out more.

Bowen Son and Watson

Residential Sales

Balfours

property professionals

Join Balfours for an exclusive VIP evening

Invite Balfours to value your property and we will invite you to join us for a private viewing of the **'The Book Thief'** on Wednesday 12th March 2014 at The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury.*

A wonderful opportunity to meet other vendors for drinks and network prior and post, film showing.

Please contact our sales team to arrange a viewing and be part of this unique evening – two tickets per viewing. Call 01743 353511 as tickets are subject to availability on a first come first served basis.

*This offer is subject to house valuations of over £300,000.

TOMH

Shrewsbury | Craven Arms | London | Hereford |www.balfours.co.uk
All enquiries please telephone 0845 2303344

For more information, terms & conditions please visit our website

rightmove

Property

Home in stunning riverside location

A four-bedroom detached family house in a lovely riverside position is being marketed by Woodhead Estates.

Standing by the River Tanat in the village of Llanyblodwel, near Oswestry, Min-Y-Dwr is full of character features and includes an open plan kitchen/living/dining area, dining/sitting room, utility, en-suite master bedroom, off road parking and attractive rear garden.

The agents are seeking offers around £379,950. Contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com for details.

WOODHEAD ESTATES

Town & Country Oswestry invites you to a 'free'

HELP TO BUY

MORTGAGE

Open Event

Saturday 22nd February 2014

Independent Mortgage Advisers we can source hundreds of lenders all in one place. Book your FREE appointment on 01691 679631. Limited places available!

TOWN & COUNTRY

2-4 Willow Street
Oswestry
SY11 1AA

FREE OPEN EVENT

Saturday 22nd February 2014

Anna is able to offer independent advice on many aspects of mortgages:

- First time buyers and general purchases
- All aspects of the Help to Buy schemes
- Remortgaging
- Debt Consolidation
- Buy to Let
- Let to Buy

You are invited to come along for an informal chat with Anna and allow her to answer any queries or concerns you may have regarding any aspect of mortgages...

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OSWESTRY

- Attractive Victorian Terraced House.
- Partial Gas CH
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Beds
- Modern Bathroom
- Loft/Bedroom 3
- Rear Yard And Garden
- EPC Band E

JJD710

OFFERS OVER £89,950

OSWESTRY

- Ground Floor Apartment
- GFCH
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking Space
- Visitors Parking
- EPC Band -

JJD835

£119,950

OSWESTRY

- Modern Detached Bungalow
- GFCH & D/G
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage And Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Cul De Sac Location
- EPC Band D

JJD814

£138,950

PANT, NR. OSWESTRY

- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast/Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Enclosed Front Garden
- Parking for 4/5 cars
- Workshop
- Includes B/Plot with Full P/P for Dwelling
- EPC Band F

JJD807

£350,000

ST. MARTINS

Detached House Occupying Pleasant Rural Position

- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFCH
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D

JJD805

£239,000

GOBOWEN

Close Care Residential Bungalow on Purpose Built Complex

- CH/DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- UPVC Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Garage
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- EPC Band

JJD831

£109,000

LLYNCLYS, NR. OSWESTRY

- UPVC D/G Electric Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Double Beds
- En-Suite Dressing Area
- Car Port and Garage
- Caravan Standing
- Views To Rodney's Pillar
- EPC Band E

JJD725

£250,000

PORTH-Y-WAEN

Exceptionally Well Appointed Country Property

- Central Heating & D/Glazing
- 2 Good Sized Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Beds
- En-suite
- Bathroom
- Double Garaging and Workshop
- Attractive Garden And Small Paddock
- EPC Band E

JJD749

£274,500

OSWESTRY

Detached three bedroomed family house in sought after residential area

- G/F C/H, D/G
- Cloakroom
- Kitchen & Utility
- Dining Room
- Sitting Room & Lounge
- Dressing Room
- Large Garage
- Attractive Gardens
- EPC Band D

JJD778

£349,950

LLANYMYNECH

- Fully Equipped Sales Office
- 100 Ft. Wide Concrete Forecourt
- Toilet
- Fronting Onto Busy A483
- Recently Used For Car Sales
- Lends Itself To Other Uses

JJD832

£55,000

PANT - TO LET. £535 PCM

- Detached Bungalow With Views
- OFCH & DG
- Lounge
- Dining Room/Bed. 3
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Garage
- EPC Band - D
- Deposit £535.00
- Agreement Cost - £150.00

JJD060

OSWESTRY - TO LET. £380 PCM

- One Bed First Floor Flat
- GFCH
- Sitting Room
- Dining Kitchen
- Parking Available
- EPC Band - D
- Deposit - £360.00
- Agreement Cost - £150.00

JJD009

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212

rightmove.co.uk

Bowen Son and Watson
Established 1869

01691 652367 35 Bailey Street, Oswestry

Ellesmere 01691 622534 Chirk 01691 772443
Llangollen 01978 860346 Wrexham 01978 340000

RICS

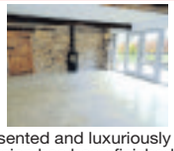
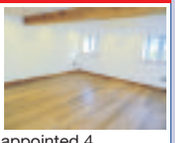
NEW

Delfan Pant £189,995

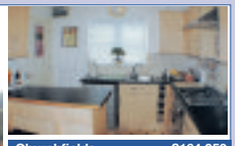
- A well appointed and spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, S
- Side Entrance Hall, 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Good size gardens with a patio & raised seating area/balcony
- Single garage and adequate off-road parking to the front
- Double glazing and oil fired central heating. EPC Rating D

COED Y Go
Nr Oswestry £350,000

NEW - NO CHAIN

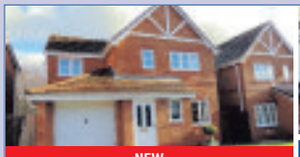
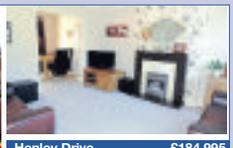
- This beautifully presented and luxuriously appointed 4 bedroom barn conversion has been finished to the highest of standards
- Set in an elevated position offering excellent views over open countryside yet within easy reach of the market town of Oswestry
- The development also achieved a Highly commended award at the Oswestry & District Civic Society Building Awards 2013. EPC Rating C



NEW - NO CHAIN

Churchfields St Martins £164,950

- A spacious and well proportioned 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Reception Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Conservatory
- Gallery Landing, 3 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Bathroom.
- Off-road parking for several vehicles, single garage & good size rear garden
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating C

NEW

Henley Drive Oswestry £184,995

- An immaculately presented 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Cloals, Lounge, Dining Rm, Kitchen, Utility, Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms (master bedroom en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Driveway providing ample off-road parking and single integral garage
- Gas C/H, D/G, uPVC fascias & soffits & enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating C

NEW

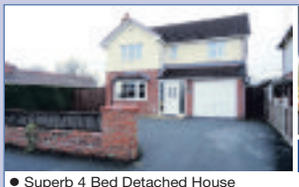
Applewood heights West Felton £69,995

- An immaculately presented 1 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Situated within a quiet residential location in the popular village of West Felton
- The property is well presented throughout
- Lounge, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom & recently fitted Bathroom
- Garden, allocated parking area and D/G throughout. EPC Rating E
- The property should be of interest to 1st time buyers and investors

NEW

Bay Tree Close St Martins £116,995

- A comfortably appointed and well positioned Semi-Detached House
- Situated in a quiet, short cul-de-sac near the centre of the village
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Sun Rm, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Delightful gardens to fore and rear, ample parking for several vehicles
- Majority double glazing, Gas C/H, cavity wall insulation, EPC Rating C



Oak Drive Oswestry £249,995

- Superb 4 Bed Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom
- 4 Beds, En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Ample Off-Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, EPC Rating C

NO CHAIN

Park Terrace Oswestry £99,995

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace property in an excellent location
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating & timber D/G windows. EPC Rating D
- Front garden with decked seating area & 2 good size storage sheds to rear
- Should be of interest to 1st time buyers & investor purchasers

NEW - NO CHAIN

Maes Beuno Berriew £119,995

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom End-Terrace set in a large corner plot
- Requires some modernisation, views over the Shropshire Union Canal
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen
- Utility, Storage Shed, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating F

Cae Onan Morda £206,995

- A spacious and well appointed 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloak Room
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden, integral garage & ample off-road parking
- Gas C/H, and uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating C

Bryn Y Castell Gobowen £249,995

- A rare opportunity to purchase a spacious Detached Family Home
- The property was constructed in 2009 to the highest standards.
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Utility
- Integral Garage, Master Bedroom (en-suite), 3 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom.
- The large rear garden has been extensively landscaped whilst there is a smaller garden & driveway to the front. D/G. Gas C/H. EPC Rating C

NO CHAIN

Marsland Close St. Martins £159,995

- A spacious Detached 3 Bedroom Bungalow in a quiet residential area
- Good sized private rear garden together with Garage and Carport
- Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Excellent Bedrms, Family Bathrm, Separate WC
- Oil fired central heating, uPVC D/G, fascia's and barges. EPC Rating E

Aspen Grange Weston Rhyn £139,950

- A most comfortably appointed 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached property
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deaths

BROWN
Elizabeth
(Betty)

Passed away peacefully on February 6, 2014, aged 84 years. Much loved Wife of the late Arthur and Sister of Bill, Tom and the late John.

Funeral Service at St Michael's Parish Church, Llanyblodwel, on Monday, February 24, at 1.30pm, followed by Cremation at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The RNLI.

All inquiries to
DAVID DAVIES & SONS
1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry
Telephone 01691 653116.

EDWARDS
Janet Anne
(Jan)

Passed away on January 28, 2014, aged 59 years. Wife of John and Mother and Grandmother.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, February 25, at 2.30pm.

Flowers if desired.

All inquiries to
DAVID DAVIES & SONS
1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry
Telephone 01691 653116.

O'KEEFE
Judith

Of Shawbury.

Aged 72 years, on February 9, 2014.

Graveside Service in the Churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Shawbury, on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 2pm.

Inquiries please to

CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors
95, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6BD
Telephone: 01743 244644

SIMCOX
Elsie May

Formerly of Avenue Road, Newport. Passed away on February 11, 2014, aged 93 years. Widow of Bill, much loved Mother of Pat, Nan to Kerry and Lisa and Great-Nan to Ben, Rachael, Joseph and Oliver.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, February 26, at 11am.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK.

All inquiries to
DAVID DAVIES & SONS
1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry
Telephone 01691 653116.

SWANNICK
Edward Geoffrey
(Geoff)

Of West Felton, on February 6, 2014, suddenly at home, aged 73 years.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium, on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, at 12 noon.

No flowers by request.

Donations if wished to the Severn Hospice, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

Inquiries please to

CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors
95, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6BD
Telephone: 01743 244644

SWANNICK
Margaret

Passed away peacefully on February 1, 2014, aged 79 years. She will be sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.

Funeral Service at St Peter's Parish Church, Myddle, on Monday, February 24, at 10.30am, followed by Interment in the Churchyard.

Flowers if desired.

All inquiries to
DAVID DAVIES & SONS
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LARGE LOCKABLE Pine storage box h36cmw83cmd86cm, £40, 01691 654738

LAURA ASHLEY Large two seater sofa Ras berry in colour £200, ono, 0789 0466964

LPG COOKER New World calor gas, in good clean working order, £140, 01691 656537

MENORIAL MIXTURE Bricks, 240 also new roof slates £150, 01938 580510

ROOF BOX 6x5 width 2ft6, Halfords bought, £100 ono, 01691 659164

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SMALL OAK TABLE £15, Telephone 01938 580510

SOLID PINE Double bed frame with pocket sprung mattress and protector £90 01691 679506

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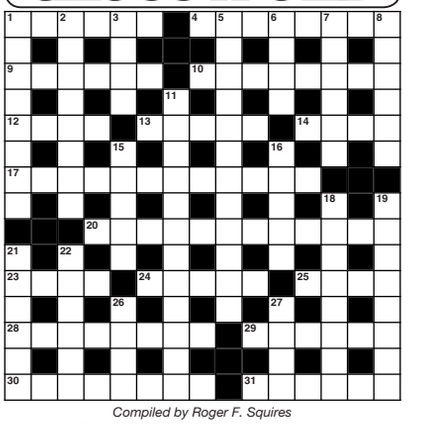

Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

1 Her identity was questioned in song (6)
4 Milk producer cast out is glowering (8)
9 Progressed quickly in art, being thorough (6)
10 Rash action of convicts? (5-3)
12 Dog food? (4)
13 Tracks people's ancestries? (5)
14 Hand over the church keys (4)
17 Military dropouts (12)
20 Eminent composer? (6,2,4)
23 Bad spell of rain in Persia (4)
24 There's a scrap when a communist is told to be quiet (5)
25 A return of service which is some way off (4)
28 Don't be in a hurry to use a stopwatch (4,4)
29 Standard pen has a good point on (6)
30 Seems Ken is put out by humility (8)
31 Avoids the Spanish dues perhaps (6)

DOWN

1 Picture which has a main theme (8)
2 Old port in Labrador, perhaps (8)
3 They are charged for half portions (4)
5 Wrote and agreed (12)
6 Put in the paper (4)
7 Responded to a pressing need (6)
8 Cleaned inside and burnt to a shell (6)
11 Preliminary plans for training aviators (5,7)
15 Wrest apart and scatter (5)
16 A doctor is behind the plan (5)
18 Study made to pay - within limits (8)
19 Directions for making machine parts (8)
21 Object of sacrifice (6)
22 It's used to lift - or bring down (6)
26 Things cracked up to stupefy (4)
27 A bargain in timber (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Lost causes, 6 Seal, 10 Elfin, 11 No parking, 12 Spaceman, 13 Wheat, 15 Ordered, 17 Shingle, 19 Cellist, 21 Digress, 22 Anvil, 24 Respects, 27 Deporting, 28 Tapes, 29 Odds, 30 Dissipated.

Down: 1 Leek, 2 Soft pedal, 3 Cynic, 4 Unnamed, 5 Expands, 7 Exile, 8 Light verse, 9 Browning, 14 Touch and go, 16 Raillery, 18 Goes to pot, 20 Termini, 21 Designs, 23 Vapid, 25 Estop, 26 Used.

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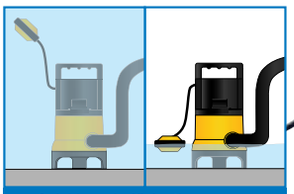

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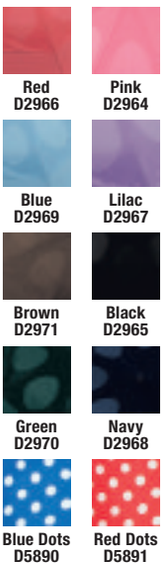

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NEWS

NEWS in brief

Campus hosting spring lambing day

VISITORS to a college in Shropshire next month will be aware that spring has well and truly sprung as they welcome new lambs to the world.

The Walford Campus of Walford & North Shropshire College, based near Baschurch, will be holding its spring lambing day on March 16.

Joseph Edwards, spokesman for the college, said there will be a huge number of things to see and do alongside visiting the newborn lambs. He said: "It is a fun day for all the family. You can see the new born lambs, you may even see one being born."

The event starts at 11am.

Parents urged to claim free meals

PARENTS are being urged to ensure their children are receiving free school meals if they are entitled to them.

Montgomeryshire Assembly Member, Russell George, said many children were missing out on a hot meal each day.

"It's imperative that children get good, wholesome meals during the day and those who are entitled to free school meals should be receiving them," he said.

Powys County Council has written to schools urging them to inform eligible parents that they can apply for free school meals.

Eight West Mercia police officers fail fitness tests

EIGHT West Mercia Police officers have failed fitness tests since they became compulsory in the autumn, new figures have revealed.

A total of 258 officers from the force have taken the test, with eight failing – including four women.

The figures represent a failure rate of 3.1 per cent – slightly above the average of other forces who responded to a Freedom of Information request.

by Graham Breeze

Figures obtained from 27 forces in England and Wales showed that of 13,024 officers who have been tested since September, 353 failed – 2.7 per cent.

Dyfed-Powys Police could not provide figures because it has not yet started testing.

More than one in 50 of the candidates who have undergone testing since the autumn have failed to make the grade, and two-thirds of those who did not pass were women.

Compulsory fitness testing was introduced last September, and for the first year, officers who fail will not face punitive measures.

From September this year, those who fail three times will face disciplinary action. The three forces where the highest percentage of officers failed were Suffolk (seven per cent), Gwent (six per cent) and Wiltshire (4.7 per cent).

The three with the lowest were Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, and North Wales, where all officers passed.

Compulsory fitness testing was brought in after recommendations by Chief Inspector of Constabulary Tom Winsor, who recommended that from 2018 the tests should be made harder, using challenges based on the type of things an officer might face on duty, but this is being considered by the College of Policing in case it negatively impacts on women.

Claims were made that one of fitness tests discriminated against women, for example by including narrow slaloms that are more difficult with wider hips.

Professor Craig Jackson, head of psychology at Birmingham City University, said: "Police forces have a number of officers labelled fit when they're unfit, and they're screening out officers who are fit – they just happen to be female."

Tim wins Hearts at bank fundraiser

Tim Smith had transformed into a pantomime dame

CUSTOMERS at a TSB bank did a double take when they arrived to do their banking.

For customer advisor Tim Smith had transformed into a pantomime dame to help raise money for charity.

Staff held a cake and book stall at the bank in Church Street, Oswestry, to raise money for the Hope House Children's Hospice at Morda.

And Tim dressed up as The Queen of Hearts to hand out jam tarts and other cakes that were sold in aid of the hospice.

Claire Carrington-Windo, area director for the West Midlands TSB, said: "As a local bank TSB's sole purpose is to help the communities that surround us. We are delighted to support the Hope House Hospice.

"Tim has been fantastic."

Vanessa Thomas for Hope House added: "The best fundraising ideas are ones that give you something really fun to do and I am sure that Tim Smith brought a smile to the faces of customers in his Queen of Hearts outfit."

Council reclaims 95pc of lost £2m

POWYS County Council has recovered 95 per cent of the £2 million it had with the insolvent Icelandic bank Landsbanki.

It has done so alongside a number of other priority creditors/UK local authorities who sold their claims through the same competitive auction process.

Each creditor who participated in the process achieved the same auction price. The price at which the claims were sold was based on a reserve price set by the council on the basis of legal advice received from Bevan Brittan, financial advice procured from the Local Government Association and the council's own analysis of the financial position.

The proceeds have already been received by the council.

The decision to sell was made on the basis that the administration of the insolvent estate of Landsbanki was likely to continue for several years which creates a level of uncertainty around the timing of future recoveries.

Future distributions could be made in a number of currencies, including Icelandic Krona, which is less advantageous to the council.

A sale of the claim now has removed this uncertainty and has allowed the council to put the money received from the sale to use now.

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NEWS in brief

Town's leisure centre gets axe

PLANS to close a popular leisure centre near Ruabon were approved last week, despite a protest by hundreds of people.

The Plas Madoc leisure centre and its swimming pool is popular with families from the area.

But Wrexham Council's executive board approved recommendations by the Sports Consultancy to close both the centre and Waterworld in Wrexham.

Campaigners took part in a noisy protest at the council's Guildhall. The plans include replacing the centres with a new, £11.9m facility in the town. But council officers warned the idea was not guaranteed because of budget cuts.

Group to hold annual meeting

OSWESTRY Macmillan Cancer Support group will be holding its annual meeting on February 20.

The meeting is set to go ahead at the Friends Meeting House, which is situated in Oak Street, Oswestry, at 7pm.

On March 5 the group will be holding a quiz night at The Pedigree, Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry, at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start.

Entry is £10 per team with a maximum of four people per team. Food will be available.

For more contact Margery James MBE on (01691) 650334.

Old shop window display brings back memories

Toby Neal

WE'VE enjoyed in recent weeks some fascinating old pictures loaned by John Lythe of Whittington - and now we can feature the shop they seem to have come from in a clearance many years ago.

To recap, John's brother Doug, of Oswestry, died last September and was an avid collector of photos and material relating to his home town, and has left many interesting items among his effects.

John thinks Doug got the material from the clearance of a tailor's shop called The London House run by a Mr Jones in Willow Street years ago.

And so what are we bringing you this week? Yes, that's right – it's a picture of Mr Jones' shop.

And if you look closely, there some interesting details, as John explains.

"A lot of the photographs came from there – that's how Doug got them, otherwise they would have been put on the skip.

"If you look at the photograph, in the shop window to the right in the window are little cartoon drawings of people in 1890s dress.

"I have got all those pictures as well which were in the window of the shop.

"They were in there for years."

There's much of interest on display within this picture of London House, Oswestry.

What fashion-conscious ladies wore when out cycling in the late Victoria era. This was among Doug Lythe's effects.

Hunting and shooting outfits from 1890.

Wedding fashions from around 1914 on display.

John also points out the lady peeping out of an upstairs window, and the bunting or flags at the top of the picture, stretched out across the street, which would point to something being celebrated or a special occasion of some kind.

The date of the photo, incidentally, is now known, but straw boaters seemed to be popular items at the time judging by the display.

"There's a little child mannequin in the window dressed in child's clothes. A few people I have spoken to can remember that little child mannequin.

"It was in the shop window forever.

"It brought back memories for everybody.

"I loved my brother to bits. It's nice to remember him. These things would have all been thrown away if I hadn't got hold of them.

"They were all brought to me to look at before they were disposed of. It's the history of Oswestry."

Focus on war and poetry at Qube

WAR artists and poets, including Oswestry's Wilfred Owen, have provided the inspiration for a new exhibition of watercolour paintings which has gone on show in a town gallery.

The Lost Horizons exhibition includes paintings by artists from Shropshire, Cheshire and Wales, which have been created to reflect on the centenary of the First World War.

It went on display at Qube in Oswald Road, Oswestry, on January 30 and will be on show until March 10.

The exhibition was inspired by the paintings of war artists and the words of Wilfred Owen and other war poets, and will also include ink drawings.

Elaine Payne, from Qube, said: "Ink was selected by the artists for its ability to convey the dark desolation of World War One battlefields. These works communicate visually through spontaneous images which reflect the savage, senseless warfare."

Following the Lost Horizons exhibition, Qube will host another war-themed event titled WWI Recollections: A Question of War from March 13 to May 5.

In the past year the gallery has collected stories, letters, photographs and memories to show the impact World War One.

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THE ARTS

Families given chance to make music magic

by Sue Austin

FAMILIES turned map making into music making at a free family event in Oswestry on Monday.

The Family Music Maze was the title of a free, half-term family music event at the Qube in Oswestry.

Families with children aged eight to 11 took part in the workshop run by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group in association with Arts Alive and Craftspace.

Billed as a fun opportunity for children to create their own music in a relaxed and friendly environment, the day soon had the children composing a piece based on a journey along a map.

Nancy Evans from the music group said: "We looked at the different lines on a map and how those lines might sound, from a road to a footpath.and a wiggly stream.

"Then we added features along those lines. We ended up with a musical journey through a landscape which inlcudes a forest, waterfall and a rifle range.

"There is always a magical moment in the workshops when the children listen to their own composition being played by professional musicians and their ideas are transformed into a beautiful piece of music."

The award -winning Birmingham Contemporary Music Group aims to introduce people of all ages to the fascinating world of contemporary music.

The musicians have been writing and performing new musical works for over 25 years and regularly feature on BBC radio.

"The workshop at Qube was inspired by a recent project called Field Notes, a new piece of music by composer Howard Skeof, a textile art installation by artist Matthew Harris, and Treatise, an amazing graphic score by composer Cornelius Cardew," Ms Evans said.

"We like to encourage people to compose their own music rather than play other people's music."

Chandra Chapman from Qube with 10 year old Bella Bailey

Elaine Reynolds from Qube said: "It was a wonderful day, we have been lucky to welcome the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group to Oswestry. "

For further information about events at Qube telephone (01691) 656882.

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GIG GUIDE

Little Red Bird launch long-awaited album

LOCAL favourites Little Red Bird will be launching their long awaited debut album at The Hermon Chapel, Oswestry on Saturday.

Louisa Jones and Matt Morris play some of the best old time folk and bluegrass music Shropshire has to offer.

Matt takes on guitar and banjo duties, with both Louisa and Matt handling the vocal side of things, and boy do the vocals stand out, it's all about those sweet harmonies for these two.

Titled Back to Bone, their new album features signature bluegrass goodness.

As well as tracks off the new album you can expect the band to play plenty of original material and reworked versions of traditional songs and old classics.

The album is available from Booka Bookshop and Outwhere Records for £10.

The gig starts at 8pm with tickets costing £6, for more information ring 01691 688848.

Shrewsbury-based singer songwriter Chris Quinn will be performing at The Royal Oak, Welshpool, on Friday night. Highly regarded on the local music scene, Chris has played at such prestigious venues as BB Kings Blues Club in New York and London's Royal Albert Hall.

His music is an interesting melting pot of genres; mainly taking influence from British folk and roots music, though also drawing on blues, jazz, swing and bluegrass

While his songs are steeped in the traditions of British folk, he also sets himself apart by giving it a contemporary twist.

As well as playing his own original material, Chris also performs unique interpretations of classic British folk songs. The gig starts at 9pm and is free entry.

You're really spoilt for choice this Friday, as The Lowfield Inn, Marton will have music from the exceedingly talented Nikki Rous. The gig starts at 8pm and entry is free.

Little Red Bird releasing new album

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FEATURE & NEWS

Growing up to be a frog is not such a bad thing

YOU and I and every living creature we share the Salopian countryside with, is as evolved as the other.

A fairly easy concept to get one's head around (unless you happen to be a creationist in which case you might as well stop reading now).

But some creatures seem to "biologically" get a better deal out of their evolution. We homo sapiens are of course masters of ingenuity and creativity but without that we would still be roaming the savannahs of Africa or swinging from the limbs of trees in the great rainforests of that continent. In fact we'd almost certainly not exist at all, being superseded by chimpanzees and their cousins.

Winds

No, chuck us out in the throes of a European winter without the ability to create stone tools and henceforth wrap ourselves in skins and furs and we'd be a pretty sorry site. The biting winds, snow flurries and driving rain have certainly made me feel glad to be a member of our species this week, but what about the species that have no choice.

Surely the most impressive of these in February is the common frog. which can breathe through their skin as well as their lungs (first notch against us mammals). Their eyes and nostrils are on top of their heads so they can see and breathe even when most of their body is underwater (unless you're a hippo, that's another mark for the amphibians). Because frogs can breathe through their skin, they are able to hibernate for several months beneath piles of mud and decaying leaves on the lake bed.

ON THE WILDSIDE
with Ben Waddams

This is a good tactic as they are largely safe from predators and the bottom of a lake or pond, is where the most stable temperatures occur during winter (no need for central heating).

During the first three months of the year, common frogs begin to emerge from hibernation and make their way to the breeding grounds. They've been known to return annually to the sites where they originally developed from spawn into adults and first to return are the males.

In the natural world, it is very important that an animal produces at least 2 young within its own lifetime in order that the population does not diminish. This is of course usually exaggerated to some degree in most species. Birds lay several eggs per season and often have more than one brood each and every year. Reptiles such as sea turtles famously lay dozens of eggs in an often vain attempt to ensure that some of their babies survive the enemies (plus plastic bags) that bar their path to adulthood. And insects can lay several hundred eggs to try and ensure that their offspring survive.

Frogs take things further. A lot further. They live for upwards of 8 years in the wild. Each year a female will lay up to 4,000 eggs at a time, which are fertilised by the male as they are released.

Ben's artwork and other media can be seen online at: waddams.webs.com

Being a frog is not all that bad

Conference-goers get a taste of the wild side thanks to firm's sculptures

WORLD leaders and members of the royal family arriving for talks on the illegal trade in wildlife were greeted by life-size animal sculptures supplied by an Oswestry company.

The London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade held a reception at the Natural History Museum which saw delegates greeted by a 16ft-high elephant supplied by the British Ironwork Centre, of Aston near Oswestry.

The firm also supplied a rhino to greet all the international politicians and leaders attending the reception, which was addressed by HRH The Duke of Cambridge.

The main conference took place last Thursday at Lancaster House where leaders from across the globe met to come up with a more long-term solution to protect the world's endangered species.

British Ironwork Centre managing director Clive Knowles said: "The conference brought together global leaders to help eradicate illegal wildlife trade and better protect the world's most iconic species from the threat of extinction.

"British Ironwork Centre was there to represent Shropshire and Oswestry on the world stage in helping to draw attention to the plight of these beautiful animals and the terrible trade in ivory and poaching."

More of the British Ironwork Centre's animal sculptures are being installed at key locations in and around Oswestry to create an unusual tourist attraction.

Up to 30 sculptures are being installed as part of the town's urban safari trail.

Life-size giraffes and deer have been introduced to Cae Glas Park while chimps have been placed in the town's indoor market.

Mr Knowles said he, his son Ben and sculptor Alfie Bradley had been asked to attend the reception at the Natural History Museum to speak about the work the firm does.

He said: "It was a great honour for us and for the British Ironwork Centre to be invited.

"It is such an important issue and something we feel strongly about."

Mr Knowles explained the invitation came after the company made a rhino bust which has been installed in the headquarters of the Department of Farming and Rural Affairs.

He said: "We handed over the rhino bust to Defra at a presentation at the House of Commons and they asked if we could bring down some sculptures to the reception to provide an image of some of the animals which are under threat."

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Pride at stake for local chefs

REGIONAL pride will be at stake when some of the top chefs from across Wales put their skills to the test in the Battle of the Dragon contest later this month.

Regional teams for Mid, North and South Wales will each cook a three-course meal for 90 people at the Welsh International Culinary Championships later this month.

The Mid Wales team, which has chosen Welsh lamb for its main course, includes a former national chef champion from Newtown and other team members from Welshpool.

The Mid Wales team includes Stephen Griffiths from Welshpool, who works for Cambrian Training Company and apprentice chef Jacob Sampson from the Raven Inn, Welshpool. Team manager is Gareth Johns, co-owner of the Wynnstay Hotel, Machynlleth.

School in special measures hoping for academy status

By Iain St John

A Shropshire primary school which has been in special measures for a year has announced plans to become an academy.

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School in Oswestry has asked the town's Marches secondary school, which is already an academy, to sponsor and support it through the process. The primary school was placed in special measures in February last year following an Ofsted inspection.

Inspectors visited in January for their third monitoring visit and said the school was still not making enough progress towards the removal of special measures.

However, inspectors also said there were "encouraging signs of improvement" and "it is clear that the climate in school has changed for the better". The school is currently under the control of an Interim Executive Board (IEB) and the newly appointed headteacher, Pam Edwards.

Mrs Edwards was praised in the school's most recent Ofsted report, with inspector noting that "the headteacher has a secure understanding of what needs to be done… her positive outlook and drive for improvement have reassured and re-energised staff."

The IEB and Shropshire Council recently approached The Marches' multi-academy trust, requesting its agreement to sponsor the school's application to become an academy.

Mrs Edwards said: "We are looking forward to exploring academy status and working together to ensure the best for Holy Trinity CE Primary School's children and families".

Sponsored academy status is designed for under-performing schools where action is needed to raise standards.

Gaining academy status gives schools more independence from the direct control of local goverment.

Students show debating skills

YOUNGSTERS from Ellesmere College got to show off their debating skills during a national competition.

A team of four went up against 32 other teams from across the north west to compete in the Oxford Schools Debating Competition.

Held at the Urmston Grammar School in Manchester, the students had less than 15 minutes to prepare their cases on topics relating to ethnicity in schools and the arming of police officers.

Dale Crawford, who heads the debating society at Ellesmere, said "Although we didn't reach the final, this was a keenly fought competition against some very experienced teams. Nonetheless, it was an encouraging performance by our students and one that has raised their confidence, and it just showed that they fully deserved to be in the competition."

Top dogs can look smooth at Bristles

Wayne Roby, of Scissorhappy in Oswestry, with Lilly

DOG owners often like to keep their canine friends looking in tip top condition. But while many pets endure a regular dip in the family bathtub or even the indignity of a hose down in the garden, Shropshire dog grooming business Bristles has taken pet pampering to a whole new level by putting on a creative grooming course.

Bristles, based in Oswestry, which is run by Debbie Knight, taught half a dozen dog owners a series of ways to embellish their dogs.

Mrs Knight, who spent 10 years working in Las Vegas, said: "I groomed for the likes of Liberace, Kenny Kerr and Wayne Newton. I also groomed the white tigers – actually is was just their house cats – of Siegfried and Roy.

"I have also shown many breeds, to include standard poodles, Boston Terriers and Russian Black Terriers."

Mrs Knight, 59, who has been grooming dogs for the past 44 years, brought in Lorraine Brackley, from Greater Manchester, to lead the creative grooming course.

She said that having carried out commercial grooming for almost half a century she was looking to move into creative grooming later this year.

Mere hosting bird watching sessions

VISITORS to a beauty spot can catch a glimpse of feathered friends in their natural habitat this weekend.

As the heron breeding season gets started, the RSPB and Shropshire Wildlife Trust are inviting families to come and meet the herons at the Boathouse in Ellesmere on Sunday.

Visitors can drop by from 10.30am to 3.30pm to take part in heron-themed activities and get a close-up look at all the action in the heronry on the Mere.

Lauren Shannon, spokesperson for the RSPB, said: "The Boathouse is a fantastic place to have a look at these magnificent birds. We have video cameras on the nests so you can follow the herons on their journey of rearing chicks.

"We'll be challenging families to think like a heron and build their own nest in a mini tree, with prizes to be won for the best ones."

The event is free although donations for activities are welcomed.

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NEWS

Winter driving made simple by the experts

Be ready for the worst that winter offers.

by Graham Breeze

OF all the seasons, winter requires the most care and preparation if you're to stay safe and avoid a breakdown according to the AA.

For safe and trouble free driving through the cold, dark months ahead the AA recommends at least 3mm of tread for winter motoring, and certainly no less than 2mm.

Don't reduce tyre pressures to get more grip – it doesn't work, and reduces stability.

Consider changing to winter or all season tyres – these have a higher silica content in the tread which prevents it hardening at lower temperatures, and therefore gives better grip in cold wet conditions.

Gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving - stopping distances are 10 times longer in ice and snow.

Wear comfortable, dry shoes for driving. Cumbersome, snow-covered boots will slip on the pedals.

If there's snow on the road pull away in second gear, easing your foot off the clutch gently to avoid wheel-spin.

Avoid having to stop part way up a hill by waiting until it is clear of other cars or by leaving plenty of room to the car in front. Keep a constant speed, choosing the most suitable gear well in advance to avoid having to change down on the hill.

When going down hill reduce your speed before the hill, use a low gear and try to avoid using the brakes. Leave as much room as possible between you and the car in front. If you have to use brakes then apply them gently.

If you get stuck, straighten the steering and clear the snow from the wheels.

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VW on the mark for SUV

By Graham Breeze

VOLKSWAGEN is relentless in its pursuit of a high ranking in the large SUV sector and the new Touareg R-Line is proof of the company's determination.

Based on the well-equipped Touareg Altitude, the Touareg R-Line adds luxurious extra equipment and unique R-Line styling in the battle to stand out in a crowded market.

Someone in the VW camp probably pointed out that it would be a useless exercise trying to emulate the off-road capabilities of Land Rover Discovery or Range Rover and instead said let's produce an up-market model that's more at home on the road.

Well they succeeded. Most models will never see a muddy track and while Touareg doesn't excel off-road it's capable enough thanks to its high ground clearance and 4MOTION permanent four-wheel drive.

On the road Touareg has impressive comfort levels and refinement and sharp handling for such a huge car.

Sitting on 20-inch 'Tarragona' alloy wheels with 275/45 R20 tyres, the R-Line stands out because of distinctive front and rear bumpers and side skirts and distinctive badging on the front wings.

Standard bi-xenon headlights with dynamic curve lighting and LED daytime running lights give the R-Line driver a commanding view of the road, and are complemented by LED rear lights and number-plate lights.

The R-Line body kit also gives you front and rear bumper and side skirt styling and unique door sill protectors with the logo. Chrome twin tailpipes add a final touch.

Many rivals come with seven seats but Touareg is strictly for five people though the long wheelbase means there's plenty of space wherever you're sitting. The entire rear bench can be moved back and forth to create the space where you need it most.

Folding the back seats down is a t the flick of a switch to increase luggage space from 580 litres to a massive 1,642 litres. And to help drivers cope with the large dimensions when manoeuvring, rear parking sensors are fitted as standard.

On test was the 3.0litre V6 TDi PS which was fitted with a splendid eight speed automatic tiptronic system which is available at on-the-road price tag of £47,070. That seems a lot but you get a lot of car for your money and the cost compares well to some of the competition. There's an impressive top speed of 137mph and 0-62mph in 7.6seconds, as well as combined fuel figures of 39.2mpg. But on the downside you sit in group 40E for insurance purpose and don't protect the planet much with C02 readings of 189g/km.

You will be safe in this model with ABS and EBD braking systems standard along with an intelligent ESP system. You get curtain air bags all round, a rollover protection system and to give you an extra feel of security there's an alarm, electronic immobiliser and child security locks.

The R-Line really competes when it comes to comfort levels. There's a superb touch screen system incorporating SatNav and all the other electronic paraphernalia now associated with luxury travel such as Bluetooth and a multi-device interface. There's the now expected stop/start system as well as hill descent assist and the 4MOTION permanent four wheel drive system has limited slip differential and electronic differential lock on all four wheels meaning you can feel free to go off road if you want.

Would I buy the R-Line? Probably not because I found this Volkswagen just too big. Otherwise Volkswagen have got things just right for taking on the SUV market and will certainly reach their expected targets.

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Customer service awards

A main board director of Vauxhall has been in Shropshire to present two 'Customer Excellence' awards to one of their top dealers.

Andy Gilson, Vauxhall's Customer Experience and Corporate Strategy Director, made the presentations to Arthurs Vauxhall at Oswestry.

Sales manager David Goldthorpe received the award on behalf of Arthurs of Oswestry and General Sales Manager Steve Hughes on behalf of their Newtown branch.

For 'Customer Excellence' in sales and service Arthurs are placed 12th out of 330 Vauxhall dealers nationwide. It's their highest ranking in 75 years as a Vauxhall dealer. Said Mr. Gilson, who this year celebrates 25 years with Vauxhall: "I am delighted to pay my first visit to the Oswestry dealership of Arthurs Vauxhall and say thank you to the team who are giving customers a fantastic experience.

"In terms of representing the Vauxhall brand, Arthurs is doing a fantastic job which is why awards are so important. It is also why, as a Vauxhall director, I have taken the time to come out and personally say thank you to the team who look after our customers so well.

"If you look after your customers well they will come back and will tell their friends.

"Arthurs, which is one of Vauxhall's oldest dealers, is highly respected throughout the network and their 75 years of history with Vauxhall is testimony to the high regard with which we hold them."

Only 25 Vauxhall dealers nationwide will receive a 'Customer Excellence' award for 2014 and Mr. Gilson, who has been a main board director since 2010, added: "Arthurs focus on providing customers with an outstanding experience is a great example for the entire Vauxhall retail network.

"The challenge of continuing to improve the customer experience for all Vauxhall drivers is considerable and it is very helpful for me to have retailers setting such a high benchmark in this area."

Nick Taylor, Vauxhall's Regional Operations Manager, was equally complimentary. "We survey customers on sales and service to ensure customers enjoy a wonderful experience when they are dealing with a Vauxhall retailer.

"Arthurs performance exemplifies the performance of their teams at Oswestry and Newtown."

Said Nigel Williams, managing director of Arthurs whose family has owned the business since 1979: "An increasing number of customers who had moved to other brands are continuing to return to Vauxhall because they recognise the vastly improved model range.

"Our team has greatly increased the number of new cars sold in our area which has cemented our position as the market leader by some margin.

"We are seeing customers move to the Vauxhall brand due to the class leading Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty which means a customer can buy a new Vauxhall and keep it for as long as they want up to 100,000 miles."

For 'Customer Excellence in sales and service Arthurs are placed 12th out of 330 dealers

Pictured above: Andy Gilson presents the Vauxhall 'Customer Excellence' award to David Goldthorpe, Arthurs of Oswestry sales manager. Pictured left: Andy Gilson also presents the award to Steve Hughes, Arthurs of Newtown general sales manager.

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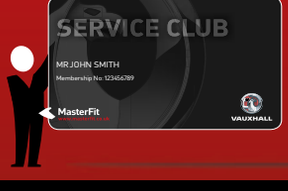

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SPORT

Morda face Ams again if weather plays ball

AFTER a long period of enforced inactivity, Morda United have high hopes that the improved weather will allow them to return to action in the Mercian Regional League premier division on Saturday when Wellington Amateurs Reserves are due to be the visitors (3pm).

By a twist of fate, Amateurs were Morda's opponents when they last saw competitive action away to the Telford side in a 1-1 draw on December 7.

With just two points separating the sides, an entertaining match is anticipated as Craig Rogers' side bid to resume their title challenge.

Provided it has dried out, the Weston Road pitch should be in good condition as the last game played there was at the end of November when Morda took all of the points in a 4-2 win over neighbours WESTON RHYN.

Meanwhile, Weston Rhyn – who last played back on January 25 when slumping 5-0 at Madeley Sports – will be hoping to return to the pitch at home to FC Hodnet on Saturday.

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitchurch Alp R	19	8	7	4	37	25	31
Oakengates Ath	15	9	3	3	38	18	30
Church Stretton	16	8	3	5	34	24	27
Morda United	15	7	3	5	47	33	24
Telford Juniors	16	7	3	6	34	24	24
FC Hodnet	16	7	3	6	21	23	24
Ketley Bank Utd	16	7	3	6	22	29	24
Madeley Sports	18	7	2	9	32	34	23
Wellington Ams R	15	6	4	5	28	28	22
Prees	19	7	1	11	31	48	22
Shifnal United 97	13	5	3	5	23	18	18
Allscott	19	4	6	9	27	37	18
Bridgnorth T Res	18	4	6	8	21	37	18
Weston Rhyn	17	5	3	9	30	47	18

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oswestry Town	18	14	3	1	74	13	45
Bishops Castle T	16	12	0	4	59	15	36
Childs Ercall	14	11	0	3	68	12	33
Dawley Town	18	9	3	6	49	41	30
Wroxeter Rovers	11	8	3	0	47	11	27
Rock Rovers FC	13	8	2	3	57	27	26
Hanwood Utd R	15	8	2	5	47	20	26
Clee Hill	14	6	5	3	36	24	23
Oakengates Rang	18	7	2	9	34	47	23
Brown Clee	15	6	1	8	39	36	19
Oswestry Villa	17	5	3	9	34	42	18
Meole Brace	16	4	2	10	28	74	14
Wrock Wood Jnrs	19	3	2	14	21	76	11
Shawbury Utd Res	18	3	1	14	19	81	10
Shrewsbury Utd	20	2	1	17	26	119	7

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Broseley	19	17	2	0	104	19	50
Wrock Wood	19	15	2	2	92	31	44
AFC Wellington	21	14	1	6	116	45	43
Donnington S & S	17	13	0	4	96	39	39
Impact	17	12	3	2	67	28	39
Claverley	17	10	0	7	67	31	30
Ludlow Town Colts	22	9	2	11	89	54	29
Market D'ton Tgrs	18	9	1	8	72	42	28
Albrighton Juniors	17	6	1	10	45	59	19
Highley MW	20	5	3	12	47	69	18
Spalaig Britannia	20	5	2	13	29	95	17
Oswestry Villa R	17	4	2	11	20	50	14
Shrewsbury Utd R	17	2	0	15	21	100	6
Demio	21	0	1	20	21	224	1

Spar Mid Wales League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
L'drindod Wells	17	16	1	0	74	8	49
Llanfair Utd	18	13	3	2	49	18	42
Berriew	17	13	1	3	56	19	40
Waterloo	22	12	4	6	58	35	40
Aberaeron	20	11	4	5	45	27	37
Carno	16	11	2	3	37	21	35
Llansanttffraid	19	6	3	10	42	50	21
Montgomery	19	6	3	10	27	51	21
Four Crosses	19	5	3	11	39	59	18
Bow Street	18	5	3	10	28	56	18
Welshpool	19	5	2	12	28	53	14
Aber Uni	17	4	1	12	32	47	13
Tywyn/Bryncrug	12	4	0	8	25	40	12
Builth Wells	16	2	2	12	27	52	8
Dyffryn Banw	15	1	4	10	18	49	7

DIVISION 2

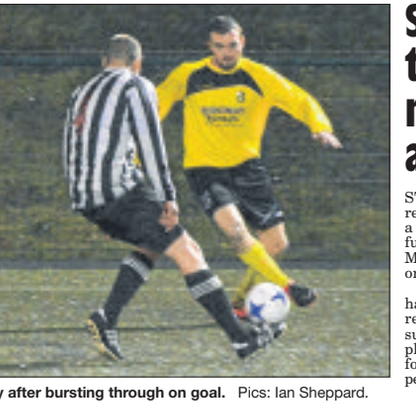
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rhosgoch	11	10	0	1	45	13	30
Knighton	13	7	4	2	31	14	25
Machynlleth	8	7	0	1	26	14	21
Abermule	10	4	1	5	14	15	13
Hay St Marys	8	3	3	2	22	15	12
Presteigne	9	3	3	3	20	17	12
N'bridge-on-Wye	10	2	3	5	14	29	9
Talgarth	8	2	1	5	10	15	7
Bont	13	1	4	8	12	40	7
Kerry	12	1	3	8	18	40	6

E R JENKINS CUP POOL A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rhosgoch	4	3	0	1	11	5	9
Hay St Marys	4	3	0	1	11	8	9
Knighton	4	1	2	1	6	8	5
Presteigne	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
Talgarth	4	0	1	3	7	11	1

E R JENKINS CUP POOL B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Machynlleth	4	3	1	0	15	4	10
N'bridge-on-Wye	4	2	1	1	14	9	7
Abermule	4	2	0	2	13	12	6
Kerry	4	1	2	1	11	8	5
Bont	4	0	0	4	6	26	0



St Martins Karl Bailey has a pop at goal during the 4-0 defeat to Bartestree at Park Hall on Friday and (right) Bailey after bursting through on goal. Pics: Ian Sheppard.

Saints slip to a Friday night shock at Park Hall

ST MARTINS saw their revival halted after suffering a 4-0 loss to promotion hopefuls Bartestree in the West Midlands League division one at Park Hall.

After three straight wins had lifted them clear of the relegation zone, the Saints succumbed to their second placed visitors who scored four times in the second period to wrap up the points.

The first half had ended goalless, but Bartestree took charge with two goals early in the second period, the first coming from Scott Turner.

Moments later keeper Paul Foster was harshly ruled to have tripped a forward as he went for the ball, and Kiah Cowley dispatched the penalty to double the lead.

After that, St Martins faced an uphill battle and their fate was sealed when Mark Avery lashed home the ball from 40 yards before substitute Gareth Bowley completed the scoring late on.

It was a disappointing outcome for the Saints who had boosted their hopes of survival with recent victories against Ledbury Town (2-0), Hereford Lads (3-2) and Wyrley (2-0) lifting them out of the bottom two.

Ryan Butcher's side are back at the Venue Park Hall on Saturday when they host Gornal reserves as they look to get back to winning ways in their quest for safety.

Although lying fourth from bottom, the Saints will be wary that they have played more games than their basement rivals.

PLACINGS

Greenhous Shrewsbury Sunday League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Pontesbury	8	7	1	0	20	22
Instones United	5	5	0	0	26	15
Wem Sunday	8	4	1	3	-1	13
Reman Afc	8	3	2	3	8	11
Compasses	7	3	0	4	-10	9
Meole Brace	7	2	2	3	-12	8
Coton Rovers	9	2	2	5	-17	8
Anchor Inn	9	2	1	6	-11	7
Cruckton Rovers	9	1	3	5	-3	6

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
S.A.H.A.	7	7	0	0	20	21
Old Post Office	9	5	1	3	11	16
Loppington	8	5	1	2	10	16
Norbury	11	4	2	5	-3	14
The Gates	8	3	2	3	-4	11
Charles Darwin	9	3	1	5	0	10
Three Fishes	9	2	2	5	-14	8
Masonic Arms	8	2	1	5	-9	7
Peacock Corinthns	9	1	4	4	-11	7

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Rock Rovers Youth	8	7	0	1	16	21
Coracle AFC	7	6	0	1	14	18
Condover Foxes	8	6	0	2	11	18
Rock Rovers	10	5	0	5	3	15
Belvidere	9	3	2	4	-4	11
Minsterley	11	3	2	6	-6	11
Telegraph	9	3	2	4	-10	11
Kinnerley	8	3	1	4	-6	10
Crown Coleham	6	1	1	4	-5	4
Brockton Rovers	8	1	0	7	-13	3

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Steam Wagon	11	10	0	1	57	30
Stretton Galaxy	9	7	1	1	20	22
Sundorne AFC	10	7	0	3	16	21
Boars Head	9	6	0	3	5	18
Unison	10	5	1	4	5	16
Saddlers	9	3	2	4	-1	11
Red Lion	12	3	2	7	-23	11
S.U.AFC	8	3	1	4	-14	10
Bull In The Barne	10	1	0	9	-25	3
Bricklayer Arms	10	0	1	9	-40	

DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Hawkstone Arms	11	7	3	1	23	24
Snailbeach	8	7	0	1	30	21
Red Barne	7	5	2	0	28	17
Saha Youth	8	5	2	1	8	17
Nags Head	9	5	2	2	6	17
Prince Of Wales	10	3	1	6	-1	10
Wheatsheath	10	2	3	5	-15	9
S.U.AFC Res	10	2	2	6	-21	8
Santos	9	1	1	7	-33	4
Monkmoor/Abbey	8	0	0	8	-25	0

Shropshire Chess League

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Ludlow A	10	7	1	2	31.5	15
Oswestry A	9	6	1	2	26.5	13
Newport B	10	4	3	3	26.5	11
Shrewsbury B	10	4	2	4	27	10
Telepost B	10	5	0	5	25.5	10
Wellington B	9	4	1	4	21.5	9
Telford B	9	2	4	3	22.5	8
Telepost C	9	0	0	9	9	0

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Condover & CS B	10	6	3	1	26	15
Telford C	10	6	2	2	26	14
Newport C	10	5	3	2	23	13
Shrewsbury C	10	4	5	1	23	13
Priorslee Lions C	10	5	2	3	22.5	12
Oswestry B	10	4	0	6	19	8
Telepost D	9	1	1	7	12.5	3
Newport Juniors	9	0	0	9	3	0

TNS finally book last eight spot and clash with Airbus

The New Saints 2 Carmarthen Town 0

HIGH-flying The New Saints maintained their pursuit of the Welsh Cup after sealing their place in the quarter-finals with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Carmarthen.

With the fourth round tie switched to Park Hall following two postponements in West Wales, the Saints made the most of home advantage to set up an appetising meeting with title rivals Airbus UK in the last eight.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Striker Mike Wilde broke the deadlock right on half time and man-of-the-match Ryan Fraughan doubled the advantage on the hour to keep the Welsh Premier title chasers on track for a league and cup double.

Head coach Carl Darlington said it was a good job done, praising Fraughan as "the difference between the sides," although he felt the full-timers could have been more ruthless in front of goal.

"Overall it was a good performance, we're happy with a clean sheet and to be through to the next round, but we had enough chances to have won by a few more and should have done better in front of goal," he said.

Chances

"Carmarthen sat back in the first half, it was up to us to break them down, but once we scored, they had to come at us in the second half as they had nothing to lose.

"We had some great chances and should have put the game to bed in the second half. You're never safe at 2-0, but we defended well, and they never really looked like scoring."

Having been hammered 6-0 in their previous league meeting at Park Hall at the start of the season, Carmarthen sat deep as they looked to frustrate their hosts which appeared to be working for much of the first half.

Despite enjoying plenty of possession, the Saints struggled to prise many early openings, although Chris Seargeant curled a free-kick just over the bar from the edge of the box in the 19th minute.

Ten minutes later, the home side won another free kick, this time Chris Marriott stepping up only to curl his effort just wide with keeper Stephen Cann stranded.

TNS continued to make the running, Wilde heading wide midway through the first half after latching onto a terrific ball from the fit-again Fraughan who then almost broke the deadlock himself when creating space on the edge of the box before firing just over the bar.

However, the Saints finally found a way through right on the stroke of half time when Fraughan produced a telling cross which Wilde met at the back post to head home.

After the break, Chris Jones nearly doubled the lead with a powerful shot from the edge of the box which Cann managed to keep out with a smart low save.

Soon after, Fraughan – who proved a constant threat throughout – headed straight at Cann after Jamie Mullan had picked him out with an inviting cross.

However, on the hour mark, the midfielder finally got himself a goal when, after working a short corner, he dribbled past a couple of Carmarthen defenders before smashing a powerful shot into the top corner to give his side a two goal advantage.

Fraughan was again the architect 10 minutes from time when laying on an inch perfect pass for full-back Finley who – scorer of a quickfire hat-trick when the teams met earlier in the season – bombed up the field only to be denied by the post.

Carmarthen rarely threatened, but did earn a free kick on the edge of the box late on which Corey Thomas crashed over as the rain started to pour down.

At the other end, Kai Edwards went close with a curling shot from the edge of the box as the Saints played out the rest of the tie with relative comfort.

The result means TNS – three times winners of the competition – will take on Airbus UK at Park Hall on Saturday, March 1 in the pick of the quarter-finals.

New Saints defender Sam Finley (right) holds off Kyle Bassett in the Carmarthen win

Catch me if you can – New Saints Chris Jones charges down the wing, leaving Kyle Bassett playing catch-up during the 2-0 win over Carmarthen. Pics: Peter Shah.

High fives as Oswestry Town go clear at the top

HIGH-riding FC Oswestry Town moved nine points clear at the top of the Mercian Regional League division one with a 5-0 beating of basement side Shrewsbury United.

Two goals Stefan Ivanov and others from Adam Jones, Oliver Jones and Graham Dyke extended Town's lead over nearest rivals Bishop's Castle, although they have played two more games than the south Shropshire side.

The league leaders made the most of being the only game in the division to survive the recent deluge courtesy of playing on the all weather pitch at Park Hall.

It looked like Nick Maguire's side would also suffer a blank weekend after scheduled opponents Brown Clee pulled out of the fixture the day before, but Shrewsbury agreed to the play at the 11th hour after Town secretary Andy Burnett worked tirelessly to rearrange a new fixture.

Town started brightly with the opening chances falling to Stefan Ivanov and Graeme Kirkham, but the Shrewsbury keeper was in fine form to keep them at bay.

However, the deadlock was finally broken when Oliver Jones played in brother Adam to head over the keeper and tap the ball home.

Oswestry then doubled their lead 10 minutes later when Kirkham launched a fantastic run down the right and his cross was well finished by Ivanov.

The second half saw Town take control from the first whistle with, firstly, Scott Bright beating three defenders only to see his shot well saved and next it was Graham Dyke who out paced two defenders but the keeper again saved well.

But a third goal arrived on 55 minutes with captain Oliver Jones smashing a 35-yard rocket past the helpless keeper.

Town soon made it four when Joe Evans put in a wonderful cross which Dyke met well and, despite another save from the keeper, Ivanov was on hand to fire the loose ball home.

In the closing stages of the game, Dyke completed the scoring with a well taken and deserved goal.

After forging further clear at the top of the table, Town look to maintain their title push when they travel to Hanwood on Saturday for what could be a tough test, weather permitting.

SPORT

U10s beat weather – and hit five on the way

UNBEATEN Llanymynech under-10s made the most of being the only team from the club to get any action as they staged a storming fightback to run out 5-3 winners against Meresiders.

It was a timely boost with the sides meeting in the quarter-finals of the Charity Cup in a couple of weeks, but prospects did not look good after the Meresiders opened up a two goal lead in their futsall clash.

Llanymynech then hit back with a strike from Ryan Edwards and a brace from Josh Wynne, followed by one through defender Rhys Edwards.

Striker Thomas Williams extended the lead in thee second half before the Shrewsbury-based Meresiders pulled one back.

■ The Roche North Shropshire Sunday Football League made it an unwanted hat-trick as all fixtures were postponed due to waterlogged pitches for a third week running following the recent storms.

This Sunday's fixtures (weather permitting): Dudleston Heath v The Keys, Oak Inn v Tavern, Malpas v Cross Foxes, Lodge Inn v Athletico Market.

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30): Buckley Town v Porthmadog, Llanidloes Town v Caersws, Llanrhaeadr v Cefn Druids, Rhayader Town v Penrhyncoch.

Huws Gray Cup quarter-finals (2.30): Guilsfield v Caernarfon, Flint v Holyhead, Rhydymwyn v Penycae.

Super Sam on target in Aber win

A STUNNING strike from Sam Davies helped Oswestry hit back to secure a tense 4-3 victory at Aberystwyth University to consolidate second spot in the North Wales Mens Hockey League.

Finding themselves two goals down, the visitors rallied as the impressive Davies pulled one back with a terrific volley that flew into the net.

Tom Smith then levelled with a short corner before Charles Evans gave Oswestry a 3-2 interval lead.

Evans then made it 4-2 before the students pulled one back to set up a tense finish, but the visitors held firm with youngster Connor Beardmore again in fine form in goal.

After a weekend off from league duty, OSWESTRY LADIES return to duty in the Cheshire Womens League division two when they host Macclessfield and Bollington II on Saturday.

And they will be keen to bounce back from their 2-0 loss to top of the table Alderley Edge Ladies a fortnight ago.

PLACINGS

Welshpool Dominoes League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Cock P/A	19	14	5	81	52
Sun Inn	19	12	7	77	56
Pinewood C	17	12	5	72	47
Powis Arms P/Q	19	9	10	64	69
Waterloo	17	11	6	63	56
Cock A	17	8	9	61	58
G/Dragon Butt A	19	8	11	61	72
G/Dragon Butt B	17	9	8	60	59
Pinewood A	17	8	9	58	61
Celts	17	6	11	53	66
Compasses	18	6	12	50	76
Social Club	18	5	13	49	77

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Talbot	17	13	4	79	40
Westwood Wand	18	13	5	76	50
The Real Railway	18	11	7	73	53
Breidden	18	11	7	72	54
Bowling Club	17	10	7	69	50
Kings Head	19	10	9	67	66
Angel	19	9	10	60	73
Pinewood Dragons	17	8	9	59	60
Westwood	18	6	12	54	72
RAF Boys	18	6	12	52	74
Muriels Bunch	17	6	11	48	71
Wellington	18	4	14	40	86

COBRA seconds in storming win

WITH the rain yet again decimating the fixture list, COBRA's second string managed to beat the elements as they stormed to a 53-0 victory at Rhos II in the North East Counties League.

The first team's home clash with Denbigh was off in the Swalec League division one (north) due to a waterlogged pitch, but a handful of players took the chance to turn out for the seconds.

Remarkably, the Rhos pitch stood up well despite the recent deluge, and COBRA took full advantage to run in nine tries and kick four conversions.

First teamers led the way with No 8 Dorian Lloyd, centre Iwan Vaughan and fellow centre Fraser Roberts all scoring two touchdowns, while youth teamers Ieuan Williams and Owain Morris also went over along with Bryn Edwards. Harry Jukes kicked three conversions, and Vaughan one.

COBRA have no action this weekend, before tackling Bro Ffestioniog away the following Saturday.

The club have suffered a blow with prop Andy Evans set to miss the rest of the season after picking up a 12-week ban for comments made to the referee in a recent game.

WELSHPOOL were also left kicking their heels as their home fixture with Flint at Maesydre in division three (north) succumbed to a waterlogged pitch.

They now face a tricky trip to face title chasing Harlech this Saturday, weather permitting, as they seek much needed points to haul themselves up the table.

Just like their COBRA counterparts, WELSHPOOL II managed to get in some action in the North East Counties League, losing narrowly 20-17 at Wrexham II.

High flying Llanidloes, meanwhile, maintained their title challenge in the Swalec League division three (north) after beating both the weather and Llangollen.

Being the only club to play in the league after torrential deluges wreaked havoc with the fixture list through the region, Llani took full advantage with a convincing 32-3 victory to cement pole position.

They led 12-0 at half time with centre Ed Pugh getting the first of his two tries, while wing Ben Davies also crossed, with Adam Price providing one conversion.

The league leaders continued to rule the roost after the break with Pugh getting his second touchdown of the match, and No8 Dick Jones also going over. Price converted both tries and also kicked three penalties.

*Due to the large number of postponed matches, the Welsh Rugby Union have decided to extend the season to May 10.

Clubs will also be allowed to play the week before on Swalec finals day as long as they gain approval from the WRU.

Entries for Welsh Rally

WELSHPOOL'S Clive Motorcycle Club is now inviting entries for the 20th Welsh National Rally later this year.

This event will take place on Saturday, May 10 and is open to all road registered motorcycles, quads and three wheelers.

The rally involves riders visiting manned and unmanned control points throughout Wales.

Breakfast and hot drinks will be available at the start/finish in Castle Caereinion. Full details can be found on the club website www.clivemcc.co.uk

Oswestry's youngsters get in swim at lessons

YOUNGSTERS from the region are making a splash after being taught vital life skills in the water.

More than 300 children from birth to school age have been taking part in classes, including those in Oswestry, thanks to the help of Puddle Ducks South Cheshire.

The termly 'Pyjama Parties' help parents, babies and children learn new life-saving skills, with those taking part really recognising their value.

Teachers show the youngsters how to swim on their front and back, resurface after jumping and how to behave safely around water. All while wearing clothes - or in this case pyjamas.

Last term, with their incredible support, the classes helped the National Puddle Ducks network raise over £23,000 for the National Children's Trust – Humphrey's Corner PJ party.

"Our teachers make the classes fun, while stressing the importance of the skills, and teach parents with new born babies how to hold their child safely in the water, take the baby underwater and find their baby's natural floating position," said a spokesman.

"At Puddle Ducks we are not only passionate about making swimming fun we know that we can potentially save lives, too."

Classes are held in Shawbury, Telford and Oswestry. For more information please look at the website www.puddleducks.com.

Eagles pay for slow start – despite rally in second half

RUGBY

by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY's rugby players paid the price for a slow start as they slipped to a 32-21 loss at Southport despite staging a stirring second half fightback in their South Lancs and Cheshire Two clash.

Another wet and windy Saturday saw the Eagles make the long trip to Southport, made even longer by lane closures on Runcorn Bridge, meaning that they did not arrive until half an hour before kick-off.

This lack of preparation was evident from the start with Southport opening up a 29-0 lead in the first half with five tries before the visitors staged a spirited fightback with three converted scores in the second period.

The home side were soon in their stride, scoring an early unconverted try from a quick tap penalty, catching the visitors' defence unawares. Despite stern words by captain Andy Smith, Oswestry continued to look lacklustre and conceded another touchdown soon afterwards, again from a quick tap penalty, converted this time.

Finally, the Eagles started to string a few phases together, but a spilled ball was pounced upon by the Southport centre, who kicked through and looked to have scored, but the referee was unconvinced with the grounding of the ball, and awarded a scrum on the five-metre line.

However, from the set piece, the home No8 picked up and drove over the line to score a well taken try, again converted. Oswestry continued to improve from the restart, but good defence from their opponents made them work hard for every yard.

A terrific interception by Jack Fox almost saw him break away, but a good covering tackle by the Southport full back prevented the Eagles from getting on the scoresheet.

The home side were using the wind to their advantage, making several good kicks, but this was countered with Luca Owen-Youens who made excellent ground with some good ball carrying.

Poor tackling

Another uncharacteristic spilled ball by Oswestry saw another kick through by the home centre, and he took it well and offloaded for a bonus point try, which went unconverted.

Soon after, the home side built up phases in the visitors' half, and were awarded another penalty. They then spread the ball wide and poor tackling by the visitors saw another try scored in the corner, again unconverted.

At 29-0 down, the Eagles went into half-time with their tails between their legs, with an injury to scrum-half Nick Clay making the situation look even bleaker.

However, a good replacement in Kevin Evans and some well chosen words by Smith and team guru Martin Ord, saw a completely different side emerge after half-time.

From the kick off, the Eagles pressured well, and good work by Dan Samuels saw them gain a scrum in their own half. Andy Merrett took a great line to breach the visitors defence and burst through two more tackles to score a superb try, converted by Dan Williams.

This was the breakthrough the Eagles needed and they continued to pressure the home side with good kicking by Evans. Oswestry built up phases to get deep into the Southport half, and a good run by Williams saw him take the tackle and offload to Chris Hesketh for an excellent try, again converted.

More pressure at the kick-off, led by Samuels and Jamie Luckett saw the Eagles maintain their field position in the home half, and good carrying by Olly Wilford and Mike Davies saw the backs get some quick ball, which was passed wide but Nick Howland was thwarted by a superb last-gasp tap tackle.

However, Oswestry were not to be denied and good handling saw Merrett score another well taken try, converted by Evans. Southport sensed the danger and stepped up their game, earning a penalty in the Eagles' half, which was well converted. With only a few minutes remaining, Oswestry upped their game once more but it was not to be.

The Eagles, now lying seventh, have week off, with the next game at home to league leaders Manchester Medics on the March 1.

Getting a feel for the new kit are Ellesmere College Sevens rugby players (from left): George Crow, Lewis Suckling, Dylan Barker from sponsors Precolor, Ted Parker and Jack Martin

PLACINGS

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Cross Foxes	17	9	6	2	64	38 24
Black Lion B	17	7	7	3	57	45 21
Black Lion A	16	9	2	5	58	38 20
Plas Yn Dinas	17	8	4	5	57	45 20
Penybont Inn	17	6	8	3	55	47 20
Station	17	7	5	5	55	47 19
Top White Lion	17	7	5	5	50	52 19
Bradford Arms	16	6	5	5	49	47 17
Horseshoe	16	5	5	6	48	48 15
White Lion	16	2	9	5	45	51 13
Black Horse	17	2	6	9	40	62 10
Railway Tavern	16	2	5	9	38	58 9
Barley Mow	17	3	3	11	33	69 9

Ellesmere land a new sponsor for training kit

ELLESMERE College has been busy this term preparing for the forthcoming Sevens rugby series, which will see them take part in five national competitions throughout March.

Director of Rugby Alex Murphy said: "We have a very talented squad this year and good strength in depth, which is very exciting. We are very grateful for the continued help and support that Mr Barker and Precolor have given us once again."

Deal

The college has renewed their sponsorship deal with water industry specialists, Precolor Tank Division. Precolor will provide the First XV rugby team with brand new match kit and squad touch line bench coats for this current season.

Precolor Tank Division, based in Market Drayton, Shropshire, is a family business spanning three generations which has served the water industry for many years.

Precolor manufacture the UKs largest WRA's approved GRP Water, Chemical & Waste Water Storage Tanks.

Precolor representative Dylan Barker, himself involved at mini rugby level with Bridgnorth RFC, said: "I appreciate the need and difficulty to inspire youngsters to reach their full potential.

"At Ellesmere College Alex and his teams do this with ease. Ellesmere is steeped in heritage with values that are closely mirrored by those of Precolor Tank Division.

"I can think of no better school for inspiring rugby players to learn the values and skills necessary to progress to the next level."

The school, who maintains its links with Worcester Warriors, Leicester Tigers and Sale Sharks rugby clubs, continually develops players who go on to represent Shropshire, North Midlands, Midlands and even the National squads.

The Rugby Academy also encourages visits from professional players, such as Welsh Rugby Star Dwayne Peel, who recently dropped into College to provide coaching sessions for our students.

Welshpool happy with golf return

AFTER a couple of weeks of horrendous rain and storms, play finally resumed at Welshpool Golf Club Sunday, with a lovely Spring-like day, and a great turnout for Rabbits and Tigers.

Also, a team from Welshpool consisting of Marc Brown, Jon Gamble, Harry Bowen and Kevin Morris, went to Llanymynech on Sunday to play the first round of the Daily Mail Mens Matchplay competition, and managed a fantastic 3-2 win.

This was a great result for Welshpool because we they were one player short, so had to give Llanymynech one match.

RETURNS WELSHPOOL

Rabbits & Tigers: 1st Richard Templeton / Clive Jones 29 pts, 2nd Mike Williams / Steve Lloyd 29 pts, 3rd Charlie Emberton / Harold Norris 28 pts, 4th Justin Williams / Charlie Birch 27 pts.

HENLLE PARK

Yellow Ball Competition: 1 Pat Roberts, Reg Collins, Derek Kellett 55pts, 2 Eric Price, Carl Thomas, Ken Wynn 54pts, 3 Mark Higginson, Nigel Roberts, John Evans 52pts.

Seniors 4BBB Stableford Competition: 1 Chris Clarke & Peter Hodkinson 41pts, 2 Arnie Elwin & Fred Woolnough 38pts c/b, 3 Terry Dodd & Peter Barker 38pts.

OSWESTRY

Sunday Morning Draw For Partners Four Ball Better Ball Medal – 16 Holes: 1st Oliver Hughes & Ian Bowe 53, 2nd Alec Richardson & Chris Male 55, 3rd Ian Pearce (captain) & Simon Roberts 58, 4th Oliver Hughes & Will Woodward 59*, 5th Duane James & Jez Mellors 59, 6th Keith Probert (Vice Captain) & Richard Clay 60*.

Don't get muddy & wet! Get wise & play quality golf all year round!

A WATERTIGHT PROPOSAL

We're confident that you'll be impressed with the quality of our course! One of the driest, free-draining courses in the county, but don't take our word for it, come and enjoy the experience with a

3 Months Trial Membership for only £125

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We have a modern clubhouse offering discount on drinks, first class catering, a fully stocked shop and a highly ranked PGA professional, who can coach you with his state of the art training aids. All this in a welcoming and friendly environment.

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Email: secretary@oswestrygolfclub.co.uk
www.oswestrygolfclub.co.uk

SPORT

Rugby
Ellesmere given new kit booster
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Football
New Saints in Welsh Cup glory
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Evening of rugby with real legend

WALES rugby legend and commentator Eddie Butler heads for Welshpool next month to host An Evening of Rugby at the town's Powysland Museum.

The evening takes place on March 12 from 7-9pm to coincide with the museum's ongoing exhibition Rugby – the National Sport of Wales.

Butler, also a British Lion, played for Cambridge University, captained Pontypool and won 16 caps for Wales between 1980-84. He captained the national team six times and scored two tries.

As well as playing rugby, he has become one of television's most recognisable voices through commentary and documentary work.

Powysland Museum's Rugby – the National Sport of Wales brings together artefacts and memorabilia relating to the WRU, the national team and their opponents as well as rugby teams including Welshpool.

Those wishing to attend need to book on 01938 554656, with the last date for booking being March 10.

■ Oswestry paid the price for a slow start as they lost ground in South Lancs and Cheshire Two after suffering 32-21 loss at Southport despite staging a stirring second half fightback.

Another windswept day saw the Eagles make the long trip to Southport, made even longer by lane closures on Runcorn Bridge, meaning that they did not arrive until half an hour before kick off.

This lack of preparation was evident from the start with Southport opening up a 29-0 lead in the first half with five tries before the visitors staged a spirited fightback.

Their next game is at home to league leaders Manchester Medics on March 1.

Full report see page 47

Harrier the new champ

MALDWYN Harrier Andrew Davies maintained his bid for a place in the Wales team for the Commonwealth Games this summer after being crowned North Wales half marathon champion following a dramatic race in Wrexham.

A marshalling error saw Davies run an extra half a mile in the final event in Wrexham, but Davies still managed to finish second in 70:14 to earn him enough points to win the North Wales title.

England U19 ace Clarke returns to Morda Road

ENGLAND teenage cricketer Joe Clarke – currently representing his country in the under-19s World Cup – is back in Oswestry's colours for the coming season in the Birmingham League division one.

After two seasons with county rivals Wellington, Clarke – along with his older brothers Ollie and Robbie – has returned to the club where he first took up the game.

Oswestry club captain Mike Robinson was naturally delighted to get the Clarke trio back on board, notably 17-year-old Joe who further enhanced his credentials when helping England into the quarter-finals of the under-19s World Cup in Abu Dhabi this week.

The wicket keeper-batsman has already made useful contributions in the competition, smashing an unbeaten 19 off eight balls, with two sixes, as England eased to a 213-run win over United Arab Emirates in their opening fixture, and then hit 33 in 21 balls in the 115-run beating of New Zealand.

The arrival of teenage international Clarke is a real boost for Oswestry who are gearing up for far sterner challenges in division one following back-to-back promotions.

He joins a week after Shropshire opening bowler Dan Bowen signed from county rivals Whitchurch, a more than able replacement for the departing Jonathan Miles.

With a paceman from South Africa also being lined up, the Morda Road men look to be in good shape for the coming campaign.

"After starting out with Oswestry, Joe joined Wellington at the start of the 2012 season, which made sense as they were three divisions above us," said Robinson.

"The aim was to get him noticed, which it did, but with Wellington now in the same division as us, he's happy to come back.

"He bats up the order and keeps wicket, he's a terrific prospect and will further strengthen our squad for the new season."

Robinson added: "It was disappointing to lose Jonathan Miles, but we've brought in Dan Bowen, and we're hoping to sign a fast bowler from South Africa."

A sixth former at Llanfyllin High School and currently living in Trefonen, Clarke – who turns 18 in May – has enjoyed a rapid rise, being selected for England's under-19s squad and also signing a professional cricket contract with Worcestershire.

He played his younger years at his local club Oswestry before taking the chance to switch to Wellington, who at the time were a Birmingham League premier club.

A wicketkeeping batsman, his highest innings is 169 for Shropshire under-17s against Staffordshire while underlining his credentials with 114 for the England Development Programme under-17s against Sri Lanka last summer.

Clarke is the youngest cricketer to play for Shropshire's senior side when making his debut in a three-day game against Berkshire after he had just turned 16.

He has also captained the England development under-17s against Sri Lanka and marked his England under-19 debut in December against the UAE with 81 not out.

SAINTS READY FOR HUGE TITLE CLASH

by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints look to take a stranglehold of the Welsh Premier title when they tackle their only realistic challengers, Airbus UK on Saturday.

The defending champions go into the televised clash at the Hollingsworth Group Stadium (3.45pm) with a six-point lead at the top after Airbus slipped to a 2-0 defeat at Rhyl on Monday night.

"If we can win it will put us nine points ahead of them, and the title will be ours to lose," said TNS head coach Carl Darlington. "It's a massive game."

There has been little to choose between the title rivals this season, with two 1-1 draws, one at home and one away, as Airbus hang on to the coat-tails of the leaders.

Despite the Wingmakers slipping up in midweek, it promises to be another closely-run affair, with the sides anxious not to concede any ground ahead of their Welsh Cup quarter-final meeting at Park Hall the following week.

Airbus will be desperate to get back to playing at home having not set foot on their own pitch for 10 weeks following the winter storms that have saturated their ground.

Televised

They expect their Airfield ground will be fit this week following an improved weather forecast, but TNS had contemplated switching the televised game to Park Hall if the poor weather continued.

"It's something both clubs will be happy to do if there is a doubt with their ground," said Darlington.

"It will be no advantage to us or to them as we've got to play each other home and away anyway.

"It makes sense to switch it as it will definitely be on here, and both teams don't want to miss another weekend."

Midfielder Lee Fowler is set to make his debut after joining from Kidderminster Harriers, with the Saints close to full strength.

Meanwhile, Darlington and director of football Craig Harrison were satisfied with their team's efforts in winning 2-0 at home to Carmarthen last Saturday to book their ticket for the Welsh Cup quarter-finals.

""Overall it was a good performance and we're happy to be through, but we should have scored more goals," said Darlington.

"We created some good chances, but did not put them away, which was disappointing, but we defended well and to be honest they never looked like scoring.

"In the end, Ryan Fraughan was the difference between the sides, he was exceptional."

High fives as FC Oswestry turn on the style

Not this time – FC Oswestry's Graham Dyke heads over the bar during his side's emphatic 5-0 win over struggling Shrewsbury United in the Mercian Regional League division one clash at TNS' Park Hall. Dyke did get on the scoresheet, however, as his side moved nine points clear at the top of the table. Picture: Ian Jones.

Football watching weather once more

THE stormy weather wreaked havoc with the region's football programme yet again, leaving a trail of postponed fixtures.

All 12 games in the Spar Mid Wales League were called off, a similar story in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League.

The Cymru Alliance also took a big hit, with lowly LLANRHAEADR'S trip to Rhydymwyn among those games to be called off due to a waterlogged pitch. George Hughes side, who have not played in the league since their 2-1 loss at Conwy Borough on Saturday, January 11, now face a tough home clash with high flying Cefn Druids on Saturday as they resume their basement battle.

GUILSFIELD'S long lay-off due to the wet weather continued as their league cup quarter-final clash with visiting Caernarfon was again postponed.

Having not played since drawing 1-1 with Rhayader Town on January 18, they will hope it's third time lucky when they attempt to entertain the Canaries again this Saturday.

Caersws, Rhayader Town and Penrhyncoch were also left kicking their heels in the Cymru Alliance following the deluge.

Newtown's Welsh Cup tie at Holywell Town was postponed a third time, and will now be played on Saturday.

Watkins in fourth spot

WELSHPOOL'S Welsh Class Rally champion James Watkins took his Nissan Micra to fourth in class at the season's opening event – the Wyedean Rally in Chepstow at the weekend.

With treacherous weather conditions plaguing the country, the Forest Of Dean was the wettest competitors had seen for many years.

"It was really slippery in the stages, the standing water and mud on the roads made the driving very difficult," said Watkins.

The next outing for the Welshpool driver will be the Rally North Wales in April.

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